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General

Tour operators say U.S. to ban citizens from travel to North Korea

Se Young Lee and James Pearson, Reuters

Two tour agencies that arrange trips to North Korea said on Friday the U.S. government will soon ban its citizens from traveling there, after the death of a U.S. student arrested there while on a tour. Koryo Tours said the ban would be announced on July 27 and would go into effect 30 days later.

Moscow in talks with U.S. to create cyber security working group - RIA report

Denis Pinchuk, Reuters

Moscow and Washington are in talks to create a joint cyber security working group, Russia's RIA news agency reported on Thursday, citing Andrey Krutskikh, a special presidential envoy on cyber security. "The talks are underway ... different proposals are being exchanged, nobody denies the necessity of holding the talks and of having such contacts," Krutskikh said, according to RIA.

The strange legal battle that is pitting Trump's secretaries of the Treasury and State against each other

Damian Paletta and Carol Morello, The Washington Post

Two of President Trump's most senior cabinet members became embroiled Thursday in an unusual legal battle over whether ExxonMobil under Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's leadership violated U.S. sanctions against Russia. Treasury officials fined ExxonMobil \$2 million Thursday morning for signing eight business agreements in 2014 with Igor Sechin, the chief executive of Rosneft, an energy giant partially owned by the Russian government.

Presidential

Trump Aides, Seeking Leverage, Investigate Mueller's Investigators

Michael S. Schmidt et al., The New York Times

President Trump's lawyers and aides are scouring the professional and political backgrounds of investigators hired by the special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, looking for conflicts of interest they could use to discredit the investigation - or even build a case to fire Mr. Mueller or get some members of his team recused, according to three people with knowledge of the research effort. The search for potential conflicts is wide-ranging.

Mueller Expands Probe to Trump Business Transactions **Greg Farrell and Christian Berthelsen, Bloomberg**

The U.S. special counsel investigating possible ties between the Donald Trump campaign and Russia in last year's election is examining a broad range of transactions involving Trump's businesses as well as those of his associates, according to a person familiar with the probe. FBI investigators and others are looking at Russian purchases of apartments in Trump buildings, Trump's involvement in a controversial SoHo development in New York with Russian associates, the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Moscow and Trump's sale of a Florida mansion to a Russian oligarch in 2008, the person said.

Trump expected to make Scaramucci communications director **Jonathan Swan, Axios**

President Trump is expected to announce that Wall Street financier Anthony Scaramucci will be White House communications director, according to two sources familiar with the planning. Trump has left the role open since Mike Dubke resigned in May, and the President has vented frequently to his friends about the performance of his press operation.

The Trump Administration Wants To Loosen Bear Hunting Rules In Alaska Parks **Nidhi Subbaraman, BuzzFeed News**

The Interior Department is directing the National Park Service to overturn controversial hunting rules in public park lands in Alaska, according to a memo obtained by the National Parks Conservation Association. The July 14 memo was written by Virginia Johnson, a political appointee at Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office.

Senate

GOP Senators Take Sessions' Side in Spat With Trump **David Hawkings, Roll Call**

Confronted with the rare and awkward choice of siding with either a president of their party or a Cabinet member who's a former colleague, Senate Republicans are sounding of single mind: Attorney General Jeff Sessions, until five months ago a senior GOP senator from Alabama, has done nothing to merit the upbraiding he's been taking from President Donald Trump. Being a former member of one of the most exclusive clubs in American politics, it seems, has privileges - including insulation from a wave of piling on when your job seems in jeopardy.

GOP Floats Proposal to Ease Medicaid Cuts

Louise Radnofsky and Kristina Peterson, The Wall Street Journal

Senate Republicans, scrambling to win support for their health-care bill, pushed a measure Thursday that they said could ease the impact of the bill's Medicaid cuts on low-income people. Advocating for the new direction is a little-known health official who is now at the center of the health-care fight: Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the two federal medical programs.

Under fire for opposing health bill, Mike Lee hits back

Burgess Everett and Jennifer Haberkorn, Politico

Mike Lee hears the chorus of critics, with blame from the establishment wing of the GOP cascading on the Utah senator for being the Republican that stopped Obamacare repeal. And he's ready to respond.

Trump Admin Actively Encouraging Kid Rock to Run for

Senate, Want to Help Campaign, Insiders Say

Benny Johnson, Independent Journal Review

Some Trump administration officials are actively looking for ways to help Kid Rock run and win a U.S. Senate seat in Michigan, according to multiple sources close to the administration. Two people with detailed knowledge of internal White House political dealings spoke on the condition of anonymity with Independent Journal Review, and cited a heavy curiosity by administration officials over the rap/rock superstar's flirtation with running for office.

Harry Reid's Legacy Hangs Over Nevada Senate Race

Eli Yokley, Morning Consult

As she considers a U.S. Senate run, Democratic Rep. Dina Titus could find herself going up against the political machine built by former Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid during his decades in Nevada politics.

Many strategists, elected officials and outside groups - from Nevada to Washington, D.C. - aligned almost instantly with Rep. Jacky Rosen, the first-term Democrat whom Reid and his leadership successor, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), recruited to carry the party's torch against Republican Sen. Dean Heller next fall.

House

Paul Ryan says tax reform will get done because GOP is 'much more unified' on issue

Christine Wang, CNBC

House Speaker Paul Ryan said he feels more confident that tax reform can get done this year than a health-care overhaul because Republicans are "wired the same way" on the issue. "Obviously, as you can see in the Senate, there is a difference of opinions on how to do health-care reform. We are so much more unified on tax reform, on what it looks like, and how to do it and the need to do it," the Wisconsin Republican told reporters Thursday.

House Republicans try to revive ban on Pentagon transgender surgeries

Rachael Bade, Politico

Several House Republicans are working behind the scenes to revive a failed effort to bar the Pentagon from funding gender reassignment surgeries for troops. A mix of GOP defense hawks and conservatives are urging Speaker Paul Ryan and his team to use a procedural trick to automatically include the controversial proposal in a spending package set for floor consideration next week.

**House Tees Up Vote Next Week on Bid to Undo CFPB
Arbitration Rule**
Ryan Rainey, Morning Consult

The House will vote next week on a resolution that would block the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new rule that bars banks from requiring arbitration clauses in consumer contracts, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said Thursday. The resolution, H.J. Res. 111, was introduced by Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-Pa.) with the backing from every Republican member of the House Financial Services Committee.

States

**Democratic state attorneys general urge Trump to keep DACA,
say it has boosted economy**
Maria Sacchetti, The Washington Post

Attorneys general from 19 states and the District of Columbia are urging President Trump to save an Obama-era program that protects nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants from deportation, and offering to help him defend it in court. Led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, the group of Democrats is twice the size of the 10-state coalition of Republican officials that have threatened to sue the Trump administration if it does not start to phase out the program by Sept. 5.

**Gillespie shifts from avoiding Trump to dropping the
president's name**
Laura Vozzella, The Washington Post

Two little words are on Ed Gillespie's lips of late: "President Trump." Since launching his bid for Virginia governor, the establishment

Republican had treated the man in the White House like a Voldemortian unmentionable.

Texas businesses rallying against bathroom bill
Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle

When did it become OK for the state's top politicians to ignore Texas executives on issues critical to our economic future? Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are reviving their bill that would deny transgender Texans the liberty to live public lives.

Advocacy

Koch network prepares pivot to tax reform
Maggie Severns, Politico

A political group backed by Charles and David Koch will soon kick off a multi-million dollar campaign in support of overhauling the tax code that is poised to become the Koch network's closest collaboration with the White House. The Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity will launch its new tax reform efforts on Aug. 2 at the Newseum, according to an invitation reviewed by POLITICO.

Small Banks Warn Lawmakers Against 'Extreme' Overhaul of GSE Rules
Anna Gronewold, Morning Consult

Amid efforts to overhaul Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as they deplete their capital buffer, small lenders are warning against actions they say could be disastrous for community-based mortgage lending. Representatives from small banks and credit unions on Thursday urged the Senate Banking Committee to avoid mirroring previous congressional

proposals regarding government-sponsored enterprises and instead called for changes to level the playing field for all mortgage lenders.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Sessions Hangs In There The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

The White House said Thursday that President Trump still has confidence in Attorney General Jeff Sessions, but after the past two days the better question is whether Mr. Sessions still has confidence in the President. Mr. Trump needs the AG at this point more than the reverse.

Obama stood up to Russian interference. Now Trump must follow through. Denis McDonough, The Washington Post

I have watched with concern the tone, substance and trajectory of the national debate about Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. I write today to set the record straight about the events of last fall and, more important, to ensure that we as a nation do not lose sight of what happened - and what we must do to preserve our democracy.

Trump, ObamaCare and the Art of the Fail Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal

It was a political drubbing of the first order. A new Republican president and a Republican Senate and House put everything they had into a bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare, and couldn't do it. The leadership is rocked.

A Republican Health Care Fix
J. D. Vance, The New York Times

Imagine a young father stepping into the street. He is alert and conscientious.

To Shrink Jails, Let's Reform Bail
Kamala D. Harris and Rand Paul, The New York Times

Kalief Browder, a 16-year-old New Yorker, was arrested on charges of stealing a backpack in 2010. To ensure he would show up for trial, and because of a previous offense, the judge set bail at \$3,000.

John McCain Is a National Treasure
Dov Zakheim, Foreign Policy

I first got to know John McCain when I was a fresh-faced analyst at the recently established Congressional Budget Office and he was a captain in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. We dealt briefly with each other when he served in the House of Representatives, and I was an official in Caspar Weinberger's Defense Department.

Research Reports and Polling

On Abortion, Americans Discern Between Immoral and Illegal
Frank Newport and Robert Bird, Gallup

Americans are often more likely to view behaviors as morally wrong than they are to advocate that these behaviors be made illegal. This underscores a general tendency for Americans to hesitate before deciding that banning an action is appropriate.



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



July 31, 2017

McConnell on Health Care: "It's Time to Move On"

At 1:39 a.m. on Friday morning, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) took to the floor and pronounced the Senate Republican health care bill dead. It was the most dramatic night in the U.S. Senate's recent history, which climaxed with a dramatic thumbs down vote by Arizona Republican John McCain. After the failed vote, McConnell said: "Now I think it's appropriate to ask what are their [Democrats] ideas. It would be interesting to see what they suggest as the way forward."

The legislation, dubbed a "skinny repeal" of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), lacked specifics but was framed by Republican leaders on both sides of the Capitol as the way to begin a negotiation between the House and Senate on a large health care package. Before the vote, Republican leaders knew that they had no margin of error as Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska.) had already announced their intention to vote against the legislation and Republicans could not afford any other defections, given their slim 52-48 majority. McCain, who made a dramatic return to the Senate earlier in the week after it was announced he had been diagnosed with brain cancer, had not yet signaled how he intended to cast his crucial vote. But his Republican colleagues spent much of the time before the vote trying to persuade him to vote with them. Even Vice President Mike Pence, who was in the chamber in case there was a need to cast a tie-breaking vote, walked over to McCain at 12:44 a.m. to persuade him to vote "yes." For the next 21 minutes, the vice president pressed McCain, Collins and Murkowski to change their votes, but ultimately was unsuccessful.

What the failed health care vote means for Washington going forward remains unclear. On CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday morning, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told Jake Tapper that "in the White House's view they can't move on in the Senate" to other issues until they pass a health care bill. He said that the Senate "should stay and work and figure out a way to solve this problem." But given that Congress has a packed calendar and fast approaching deadlines, including passing a budget by Sept. 30 to keep the government operating, as well as raising the debt ceiling before the government defaults in October, it is unlikely McConnell will spend any more precious floor time on health care, at least in the short term.

While disappointed, conservatives inside the beltway have signaled that it is time to move on to tax reform. Tim Phillips, president of the conservative Americans for Prosperity, on the failure to repeal and replace the ACA said, "it's time to pivot to tax reform. There's no time to pout."

D.Y.K.? On July 28, Democratic U.S. Rep. John Delaney of Maryland became the first prominent elected official to announce his candidacy for president in 2020. According to Five Thirty Eight, in the past 45 years, there's no record of any serious candidates announcing that they're running for president this early. In the 2016 cycle, Ted Cruz was the first to declare among Democrats and Republicans. He did so on March 23, 2015 — that was 315 days before the Iowa caucuses.

Can Republicans Pivot to Tax Reform?

After their health care bill died on the Senate floor last week, Republican congressional leaders have begun shifting their attention to another equally herculean task: reforming the U.S. tax code. The White House, Treasury and congressional leaders issued a six-paragraph statement last Thursday showing their commitment to pursuing tax reform before the end of 2017. In a symbolic statement, the so-called "Big Six" of top lawmakers and administration officials vowed to reduce tax rates, simplify the tax code, and improve U.S. economic growth by updating tax laws. While the announcement merely presented a broad mission without delving into any policy specifics, one of the most controversial topics in the tax reform debate was officially abandoned. The border adjustment tax, or the tax on imports, was formally stripped from tax reform discussions. This comes following fierce backlash from retailers, and other import-dependent industries and conservative activists who argued that it was a tax on consumers and would hinder economic activity.

The "Big Six", made up of Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas), McConnell, Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and Gary Cohn, the director of the National Economic Council, will have an extremely busy August as they begin crafting tax reform measures after losing one of the largest ways to fund tax cuts, i.e. repeal of the ACA tax provisions. Brady, who supported border adjustability said last week, "for us to unify it was important to set it aside, for now. We've been actively exploring with the Senate and White House a viable alternative," he added. "[We] still have work to do but I like the path we're going."

That path will prove difficult. Republicans plan to use the congressional tool known as budget reconciliation to push tax reform through the Senate without Democratic votes. But any provisions in a reconciliation package that would add to the deficit outside the 10-year budget window must be temporary. Most likely to end up as permanent would be cuts to business and individual rates while the elimination of various individual tax breaks, including the federal deduction for payment of state and local taxes are at stake. NCSL has joined with the other Big 7 state and local groups actively and

adamantly opposing this approach. Specifics for tax reform will be planned during the August recess and Republican leadership will begin whipping members into line on passing a budget to serve as a vehicle for tax reform. It remains to be seen if Ryan, McConnell and President Donald Trump will be able to sell the tax reform plan to the public. Public support will be vital if comprehensive tax reform is to ever be realized.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

Congress Will Have a Busy Fall

While the Senate will remain in session for the next two weeks to work on issues that have been sidelined during the health care debate, the House has adjourned for a five-week recess and won't return to Washington until September. And September is shaping up to be a critical month in Washington for Congress and the Republican agenda. Even if health care legislation remains sidelined, Republican leaders will need to secure the votes to keep the government funded and to raise the debt ceiling, which will likely expose the ideological divisions within the GOP again. If Republicans have trouble sending "must-pass" legislation to the president's desk, it will portend an even tougher path for other major initiatives for this Congress, including comprehensive tax reform.

Here are a few of the big-ticket items that Congress must address this fall:

- **Pass an Appropriations Bill:** FY 2018 begins on Oct. 1. Rumors on the Hill indicate that as of now, Congress will likely extend funding until December, and then fight over the rest of the year's funding in the final month of the year. Failure to pass a spending measure in time, which would result in a government shutdown, would be devastating for Republicans and their agenda in Washington.
- **Raise the Debt Ceiling:** Congress has not made any headway on a plan to lift the nation's debt limit because of infighting in the administration and on Capitol Hill on whether or not the raise should come with strings attached. Lawmakers have until October to get this done and, if history repeats itself, don't expect a deal until the last minute.
- **Reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration:** Although bills are under consideration in both chambers, the House and the Senate will need to resolve differences, including whether to privatize the nation's air traffic control system.

- **The Children's Health Insurance Program**, which provides health care coverage to more than 8 million kids, is authorized through 2019, but the funding expires at the end of the current fiscal year, on Sept. 30.
- **Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program**: The program is set to expire at the end of September. The program has come under scrutiny following its handling of claims from Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and fiscal hawks are concerned about the program's ballooning \$24 billion debt. Numerous members have called for reforms, including proposals for privatization.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

D.Y.K.? The longest terms of office in the U.S. government, aside from judges, are the comptroller general and the assistant comptroller general. They hold office for 15. The current comptroller general is Eugene Louis Dodaro, who assumed his post Dec. 22, 2010.

House Committee Approves Autonomous Vehicle Legislation; Senate Committee Expected to Follow Suit Shortly

On July 27, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved H.R. 3388, Safely Ensuring Lives Future Deployment and Research In Vehicle Evolution Act (SELF DRIVE Act). The bill aims to update federal regulations, requirements and preemption language related to autonomous vehicles and vehicle technology. Most important, the bill includes language that would expand federal preemption of states from motor vehicle safety to include automated driving systems, or components of automated driving systems.

While still an expansion of current preemption, the final language approved by the committee was changed from earlier versions after a letter from a number of major state associations, including NCSL, the National Governors Association, and others that called on the committee to ensure that states continue to serve in their traditional role as regulators of vehicle operations. Additionally, the letter, spearheaded by NCSL, was successful in revising language regarding exemptions of federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS), and vehicle safety assurance requirements from earlier versions of the bill.

There is a similar ongoing effort on autonomous vehicles in the Senate. On June 13, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.), Ranking Member

Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and Senator Gary Peters (D-Mich.) introduced a set of principles on self-driving vehicle legislation. The six principles outlined include:

- Prioritizing motor vehicle safety to ensure that federal standards are eventually set.
- Promoting innovation and reducing roadblocks by ensuring that existing rules are updated to account for this new technology.
- Remaining tech-neutral to avoid favoring one business model over another.
- Reinforcing separate federal and state roles to ensure the federal government sets vehicle safety standards while states regulate the driver, and while also making targeted updates for this new technology.
- Strengthening cybersecurity to ensure the vehicles are safe to operate.
- Educating the public around the differences between conventional and self-driving vehicles.

It remains unclear when the Commerce Committee will release a formal bill although a markup is not anticipated until September, at the earliest.

NCSL Contacts: Ben Husch, Kristen Hildreth

DYK? President James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other ... at the same time.

NCSL's States' Agenda to be Adopted at Boston Legislative Summit

Next week, the NCSL Standing Committees will meet to consider almost 50 policy directives and resolutions during NCSL's Legislative Summit in Boston. If approved by at least three-fourths of the states in the committees, the policy directives and resolutions will then be considered at the annual Business Meeting. To be part of NCSL's States Agenda, policy directives and resolutions will again need to be adopted by at least three-fourth of the states. These policy directives and resolutions will guide NCSL's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration.

Below is a link to the policy directives and resolutions the NCSL Standing Committees expect to consider during their meetings on Sunday, Aug. 6, and Monday, Aug. 7. Final votes on all policy directives and resolutions reported from the standing committees will take place at the annual NCSL Business Meeting, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 7, from 3:15--5 p.m.

More on the NCSL Policy Process can be found [here](#).

NCSL Contacts: Neal Osten, Molly Ramsdell

NCSL President-elect Senator Deb Peters Testified Before Congress

NCSL President-elect Senator Deb Peters (R) of South Dakota testified before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law last Tuesday in opposition to the No Regulation Without Representation Act, H.R. 2887. Peters explained in her testimony that the legislation would preempt countless laws in every state and would cede even more control to the federal government. "Congress has persistently endeavored to erode state sovereignty and undermine the significance of the 10th Amendment in favor of more centralized power at the national level," Peters said. "This erosion of state sovereignty has only accelerated in recent years as the congressional thirst to dictate state governance apparently cannot be quenched."

In her written testimony, Peters cited some of the hundreds, or even thousands, of state laws that would be preempted by the No Regulations Without Representation Act, including state laws that prohibit the possession of Salvia, laws that would address the opioid crisis, and laws that protect against invasive species. She also said the legislation being discussed in the hearing would have shut down efforts by states to collect sales taxes on remote transactions and would preempt numerous other tax laws, such as corporate income taxes, in 25 states.

In general, the members of the subcommittee were sympathetic to the concerns raised by Peters, and most offered little or no support for the No Regulation Without Representation Act. Representative Doug Collins (R-Ga.), in his comments, stated that because of the broad and preemptive nature of the bill, "I cannot support the approach we are taking in the subcommittee here today in considering this legislation."

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

The July 24, 2017 Capitol-to-Capitol can be found [here](#).

If you have comments or suggestions regarding Capitol-to-Capitol, please contact [Max Behlke](#).

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Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the premier bipartisan organization representing the interest of states, territories and commonwealths. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted by a ¾ majority of states during NCSL's Legislative Summit. Photo courtesy of washington.org.



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I thought you might be interested in Matt Vespa's [Townhall](#) article below. Saul Anuzis

Could The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Reduce Bad Policy-Making In Our Elections?

Townhall

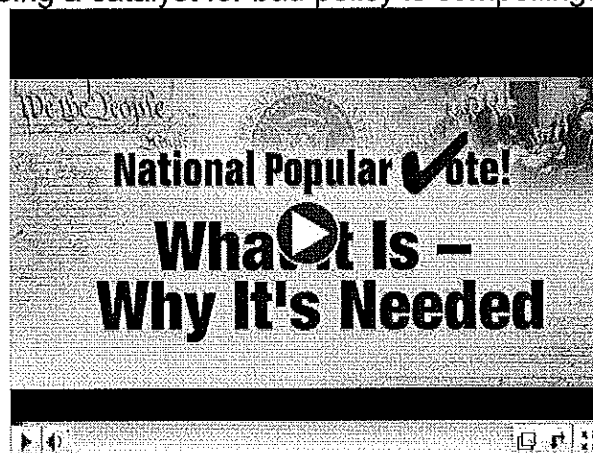
By [Matt Vespa](#)

August 10, 2017

Okay-I'm going to step back a second on the Electoral College. In general, I think the institution that has served us well for over 200 years. No, I don't think that the five times a president was elected by winning the 270 electoral votes, but not the popular vote, constitutes a harbinger for the destruction of our republic. Liberals whine about Bush's 2000 win. They whine about Trump's 2016 win, albeit with more froth around the mouth. There were a solid couple of weeks worth of hot takes about how the Electoral College is archaic, racist, and anti-Democratic and yet we're still here. Yet, there's an emerging consensus that while the Electoral College might have served us well, we're approaching a point where the Democrats could run the table, and that swing states, in general, are dictating policy as a result of this system. We'll get to that in a second.

In April, *Townhall* was invited to a seminar by the Institute for Research on Presidential Elections to a seminar about the National Popular Vote

Interstate Compact and other reforms relating to the Electoral College, such as electors chosen by congressional district and proportional representation. I can already hear the groans. I had my reservations, but while I'm still on the sidelines concerning taking a side-the point about swing states being a catalyst for bad policy is compelling.



If you go on their website and search on your own, you can get a brief history about the Electoral College, and see how the system we witness in action every four years was not the one envisioned by the Founding Fathers. The system was a form of compromise. James Madison wanted direct elections; Alexander Hamilton wanted Congress to elect the president. States were allowed to decide how they would participate in the Electoral College because no one could figure out a uniform way on how to elect the president. The point is winner-take-all was never in the cards from the beginning. Most states did not have such a system in our first election. Concerning picking electors, the states had a hodgepodge of presidential elector systems, governor appointments, or congressional elector districts to fill their slates.

After Thomas Jefferson lost the election of 1796, thanks to three electors breaking for John Adams through the district system, Virginia passed a winner-take-all to ensure Jefferson would receive the state's entire slate for 1800. Massachusetts repealed their district system to ensure that all of their electors would vote for John Adams in the election of 1800. This set off a domino effect, where virtually all of the states were rushing to establish winner-take-all systems by the time of the Civil War.

So, let's forward to the modern era. Some could argue that the writing is on the wall. In the last six presidential elections, Democrats have been able to easily win 242 electoral votes from the West Coast and the liberal northeast. They only need to win Florida to lock up the necessary votes (271) for the presidency-and Florida will probably be a blue state in the next two election cycles.



So, how will this interstate compact work? Well, first enough states have to sign on to equal the required amount of electoral votes to win the presidency. Right now, 11 states equaling 165 electoral votes have signed on, the proposal has gained traction in other state legislatures, and two states-Georgia and Missouri-have passed a committee.



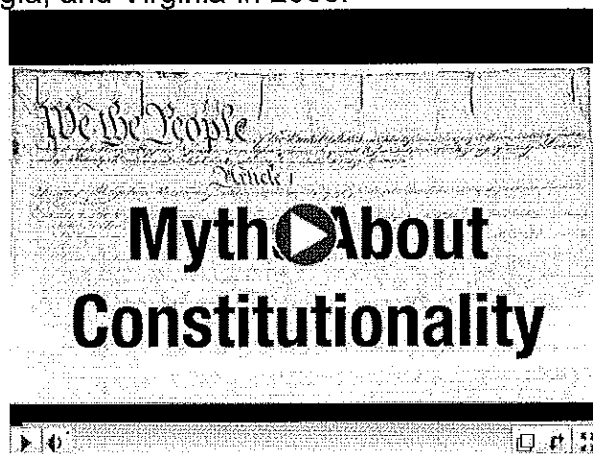
If enough states to equal the required 270 sign on, the compact is triggered and whoever wins the most popular votes is elected president,

regardless of party. It also reduces the influence of swing states and expands the map. In 2012, 100 percent of the general election events occurred in just 12 states. Playing Devil's advocate, I'm sure the people of Kansas, Missouri, and Montana probably have the exact same concerns about jobs and health care, as people from Ohio.

Still convinced this is a bad idea? Well, if this were to occur, conservatives in New York and California, who have been hiding in the bunker for decades, would be incentivized to turn out and vote. In the Empire State for example, the Conservative Party of NY found that there was a pool of 1.6 million voters who would support their causes. It's not a far jump to see them supporting a Republican for president, yet, given that they know it's a deep blue state, whose winner-take-all electors will go to the Democrats-only around 500,000 turn out and vote. It's possible to make states more competitive and it's possible that Republicans can still win national elections through this compact. If you believe that we're a center-right nation, and I think we are, running on our ideas and winning shouldn't be a problem. Gone are the days of tailoring campaign messaging for some states, but not others to avoid alienating voter groups.

This is probably the most compelling part of the NPV compact: it could curb the proliferation of bad national policies that are drummed up to win elections. George W. Bush pushed No Child Left Behind, which federalized education policy, to win over mothers in Hamilton County, Ohio, one of the key counties in the state. Medicare Part D, which added trillions to the unfunded liability of the entitlement program, was meant to keep seniors from drifting too far from the GOP (i.e. keep Florida in play). Those are just two policies that have been detrimental to the country. One added to the debt and deficit, while the other stripped power away from local school boards who know their districts best. Under the NPV, the Republican Party can run a hardcore conservative campaign. For liberals, they can run on their single-payer, political correctness, and identity politics nonsense if they wish as well. What about the 11 most populous states running the table? Well, NPV's memorandum on the myths about NPV notes, "no big state delivered more than 63 percent of the popular vote to any candidate in 2000, 2004, 2008, or 2012." Moreover, the five biggest states-Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Carolina-were closer to 50-50. Also, they're not

predisposed to either party; Bush won six-Texas, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia-in 2006.

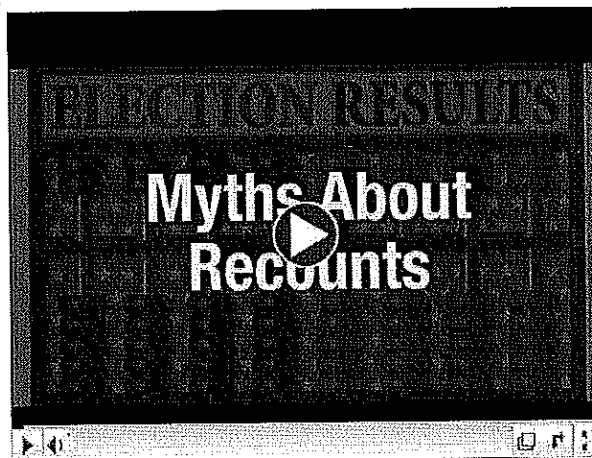


The memo also notes:

1. The rural vote is already diminished since these states are not considered in the battleground category under the current system
2. It won't allow cities to dominate the electoral landscape because the ten largest cities only house eight percent of the U.S. population. The 100 biggest cities (one-sixth of the total U.S. population) voted 63 percent Democratic in 2004, but 60 percent of rural Americans voted Republican. The remaining two-thirds live in the suburbs, which are evenly divided.
3. On voter fraud, it's hard to have a concerted national effort to defraud an election, whereas it's easier to alter a smaller pool of votes in a winner-take-all state and possibly flip it. Florida's 25 electoral votes decided the 2000 election out of over 105 million ballots cast. That wouldn't be an issue under the NPV.
4. On its constitutionality, Article II states, "Each state shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors." Winner-take-all systems are state-based laws. The NPV is a state-based initiative. All it is doing is replacing winner-take-all states, or enough of them to trigger the compact, by awarding electors to the candidate who has won the most popular votes in all 50 states.



The rest of the information is featured on their site. There are some appealing things to this: the freedom to run a campaign that is truly at the heart of the party platform, the notion of winning California again, and the reduction in bad policies crafted to win over key counties in a handful of battleground states. The deluge of new Republican-leaning voters leaving the bunkers in deep Blue America, knowing their vote will count just as much as a battleground state voter could have a significant impact. It's not a constitutional amendment. All of these are very interesting things, but overhauling a centuries-old institution requires more debate. There should be a long, vibrant debate and it should be held nationally.



Both sides will be hesitant to budge. Democrats see a possible lock on the Electoral College, while GOP voters will fear big states and metropolitan areas dominating the political scene. Yet, stepping away

from national politics, you can't win a majority in Congress by just winning the cities. If there's one area where have moved on, it's the significance of cities in our national politics. Yes, bastions of power, but not all-powerful. These areas are still insufferable with their politics, however. Also, while it's a progressive analysis, the Ruy Teixeira of the Center for American Progress and Bill Frey of Brookings noted a scenario that could put Democrats in an Electoral College pickle for quite some time. The Left likes to think they're on the verge of a permanent majority, though these two demographers noted a scenario where the GOP's hold on the white working class could give Republicans the electoral advantage, despite favorable demographic shifts that yielded more minority voters. That's because a geographic wall-the cities, hems in Democrats. That's fine if you have more voters in your ranks, if they live in areas that have been Democratic for eons and not competitive in national elections, it doesn't make a difference. There are definitely some in the GOP elite that know this. Democrats should also know that a lack of presence in the rural areas does spell political death if they don't reclaim some territory in the near future. The strategies of accomplishing that, like not stripping support from pro-life Democrats, might cause heartburn among the progressive wing of the party. Not supporting single-payer could also devolve into Democratic blood sports. Concerning these high concentrations of minority voters, given that the suburbs are where most voters live and are evenly split, that still wouldn't be an issue under the NPV.

= A



Dave Wasserman
@Redistrict

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My point is not that complicated, guys: Democrats' historic geographic concentration is negatively impacting their ability to win power.

12:09 PM - Aug 8, 2017

58 65 215



Dave Wasserman
@Redistrict

Follow

If more than 50% of your '16 voters lived in just 9 states & 94 of America's 3,141 counties...you're probably not a healthy national party.

11:16 AM - Aug 8, 2017

240 457 1,026



Besides curbing bad policy, the Florida issue cannot be ignored. Florida will be blue in our lifetime. That's 29 electoral votes added to the Democrats' guaranteed 242, which is the ballgame. I'm not a person who thinks the constitution is fungible, but this is a state-based initiative that could work. I do want to learn more before taking a side. I'm sure all of you have opinions on this matter and I hope you debate them in the comments section below. For now, just call me a Devil's advocate on the matter. Not for or against, but wanting a debate on it. Donald Trump and the GOP might have a solid lead with white working class voters that will bolster their standing in elections, but that will go away. Trump can't be president forever, and Democrats are learning the hard way that you can't build your entire movement and party apparatus around one

term-limited individual. I say let's have a debate on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. That alone cannot hurt the country.



Matt Vespa is the Associate Editor at Townhall.com. He previously worked for CNSNews.com and was the recipient of Americans for Prosperity Foundation's 2013 Andrew Breitbart Award for Excellence in Online Activism and Investigative Reporting.

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National Popular Vote, 990 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

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From: Nikki Comerford
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 7:18 AM
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Subject: WATCH LIVE TODAY AT 12:30 (CT) A talk on tax reform



From the desk of

Nikki Comerford

Events Manager

ncomerford@heartland.org

312/377-4000

Our friends at Americans for Prosperity are hosting an event at The Heartland Institute on Wednesday, October 4. I hope you can watch it live!

--Nikki



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ILLINOIS

Hate doing taxes every year?

You're not alone. America's tax code is endlessly complex, convoluted, and difficult to navigate. Tax preparation costs **Americans more than \$230 billion** each year. Our tax code is clearly broken.

But there is hope for tax relief this year!

Congress is making comprehensive tax reform a major legislative priority. I'd like to personally invite you to join AFP Illinois on Wednesday, October 4. for a lunchtime tax reform panel discussion featuring two former members of Congress who have excellent credentials: Joe Walsh (R-IL), who has a lifetime AFP score of 100%, and Tim Huelskamp (R-KS), who has a lifetime AFP score of 98%.

WATCH LIVE!

This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about AFP's positive vision to unrig the American economy and Congress's once-in-a-generation opportunity to pass pro-growth tax reform.

WHAT: *AFP-Illinois presents:* A tax reform panel discussion with former congressman and Heartland Institute President Tim Huelskamp and former congressman and current talk show host Joe Walsh.

WHERE: The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 4, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WATCH LIVE

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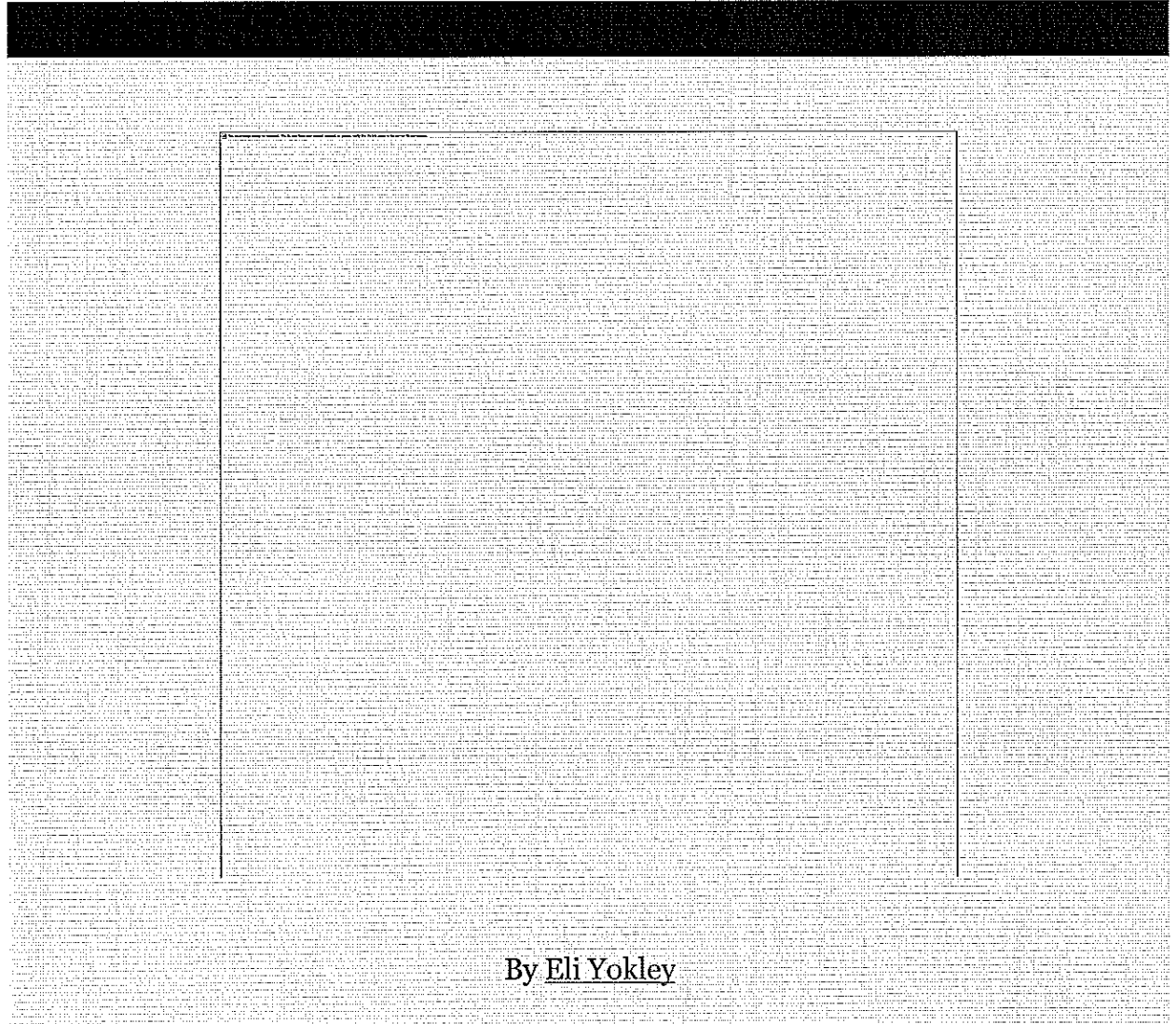
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Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

Top Stories

- Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.), a member of the House Pro-Life Caucus, said he will not seek re-election next year. The announcement came shortly after publication of a news report that said Murphy urged a woman, with whom he was having an extra-marital relationship, to get an abortion. ([Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#))
- Key Republican senators, including John Cornyn (Texas) and John Thune (S.D.), said they are open to legislation that would ban the "slide fire" devices known as bump stocks, which were reportedly used in the Las Vegas shooting. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced the bill with the backing of several Senate Democrats. ([Politico](#))
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly "help separate our country from chaos," an apparent jab at President Donald Trump. Following news reports of conflict between Tillerson and Trump, Corker said Tillerson is "without the support and help that I'd like to see him have." ([CNN](#))
- Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating Russia's influence on the 2016 U.S. presidential election, is looking into former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele's dossier that included allegations of Russian links to Trump's campaign and his associates. Steele has not spoken with the Senate Intelligence Committee, whose leaders provided an update Wednesday on their Russia investigation. ([Reuters](#))

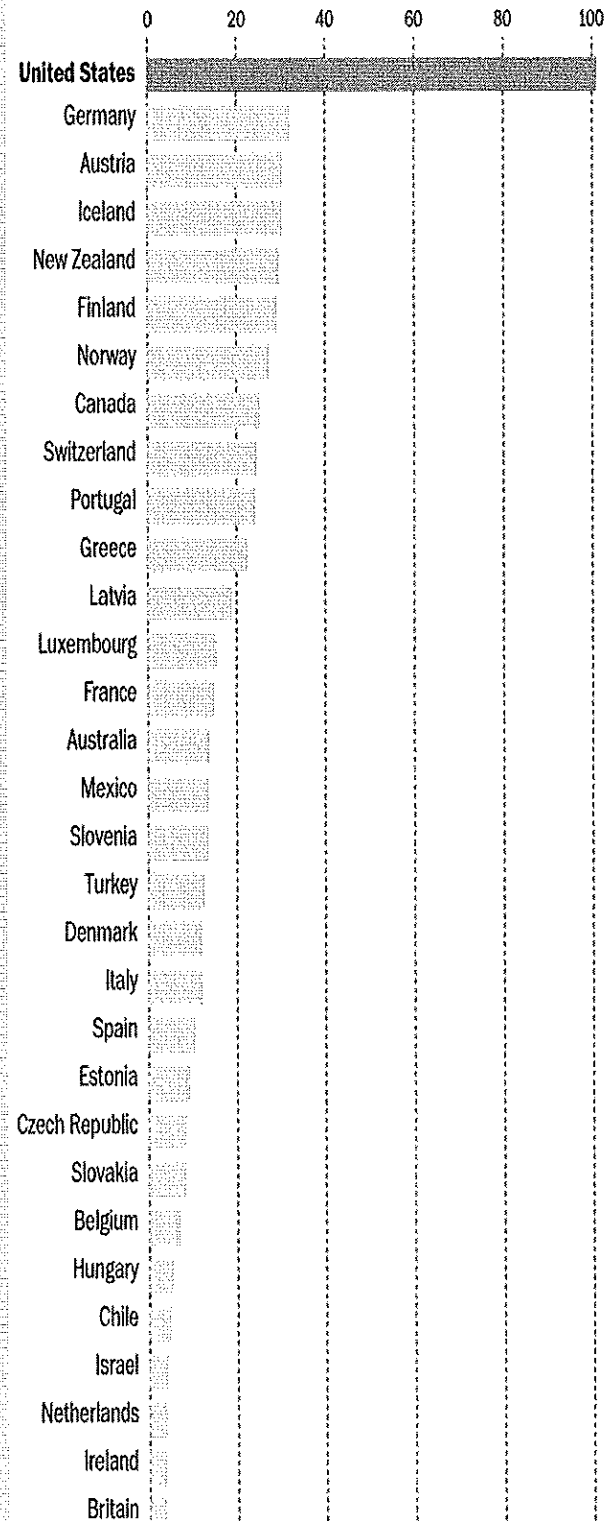
Chart Review

Mass shootings: How U.S. gun culture compares with the rest of the world

The Washington Post

HOW THE U.S. COMPARES TO THE OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN GUN OWNERSHIP

Guns per 100 people



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

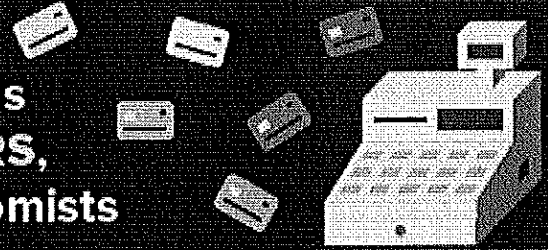
THURSDAY

Sen. Cotton speaks at Washington Post event	9 a.m.
House Financial Services Committee hearing on Equifax breach	9:15 a.m.
Chairman of Council of Economic Advisers speaks at Tax Policy Center event	9:30 a.m.
Senate Budget Committee markup of fiscal year 2018 budget resolution	10:30 a.m.
Charles Koch speaks at Good Profit Conference	12 p.m.
Peterson Institute event on global economic prospects for 2017	12:15 p.m.
BPC event on Turkish relations	2 p.m.

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

Who are the Durbin amendment's price controls hurting most? CONSUMERS, say Federal Reserve economists



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General

3 Green Berets killed in ambush in Niger

Barbara Starr et al., CNN

Three Green Berets were killed and two others were wounded in southwest Niger near the Mali-Niger border when a joint US-Nigerien patrol was attacked Wednesday, officials told CNN. Two administration officials said the wounded US troops had been evacuated to the capital, Niamey, and would soon be moved to Germany.

Hurricane Damage in Puerto Rico Leads to Fears of Drug Shortages Nationwide

Kate Thomas and Sheila Kaplan, The New York Times

Federal officials and major drugmakers are scrambling to prevent national shortages of critical drugs for treating cancer, diabetes and heart disease, as well as medical devices and supplies, that are manufactured at 80 plants in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. Pharmaceuticals and medical devices are the island's leading exports, and Puerto Rico has

become one of the world's biggest centers for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Ex-Trump adviser Paul Manafort conspired to mislead bankruptcy court, son-in-law charges
Kevin McCoy and Brad Heath, USA Today

As federal authorities investigate former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's controversial ties to Russia, his estranged son-in-law is accusing him of conspiring to mislead a federal bankruptcy court about real estate investments. Jeffrey Yohai made the allegation on Sept. 28, in a case that centers on four troubled California real estate investments that collectively total millions of dollars.

Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr. Were Close to Being Charged With Felony Fraud
Jesse Eisinger et al., ProPublica and WNYC

New York prosecutors were preparing a case. Then the D.A. overruled his staff after a visit from a top donor: Trump attorney Marc Kasowitz.

Presidential

'Trump dossier' on Russia links now part of special counsel's probe: sources
Mark Hosenball, Reuters

The special counsel investigating whether Russia tried to sway the 2016 U.S. election has taken over FBI inquiries into a former British spy's dossier of allegations of Russian financial and personal links to President Donald Trump's campaign and associates, sources familiar with the inquiry told Reuters. A report compiled by former MI6 officer Christopher Steele identified Russian businessmen and others whom U.S.

intelligence analysts have concluded are Russian intelligence officers or working on behalf of the Russian government.

NATO to Increase Counterterrorism Funding in Line With Trump Agenda

Julian E. Barnes, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. has reached an agreement with holdout France to increase NATO funding for counterterrorism programs, clearing a significant obstacle to the Trump administration's agenda for the alliance. Under the deal, allied diplomats said, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's total budget, now \$1.6 billion, will rise next year by roughly 1%.

The Trump administration has already been rolling back gun regulations

Beth Reinhard and Sari Horwitz, The Washington Post

Donald Trump campaigned as a fierce defender of the Second Amendment and the favored candidate of the National Rifle Association, vowing to undo any actions by President Barack Obama on gun control. But when Trump nixed one of Obama's most significant efforts to expand background checks on prospective gun buyers, he did so without fanfare.

Trump Speaks and a \$3.8 Trillion Market Hears an Existential Threat

Brian Chappatta, Bloomberg

Even before Wall Street awoke, Wednesday looked like a wild day for the nation's \$3.8 trillion municipal-bond market. Few might have predicted just how wild things would get.

Senate

Key GOP senators open to 'bump stock' ban
John Bresnahan et al., Politico

Top Senate Republicans said Wednesday they are open to considering legislation banning devices that were reportedly used to gun down scores of people in the worst mass shooting in modern American history. Bump stocks - also known as "slide fire" devices, which work by rapidly "bumping" the trigger of a semi-automatic weapon to boost the rate of fire - were reportedly used by Stephen Paddock to kill 58 people and wound more than 500 in Sunday's Las Vegas massacre.

Corker: Tillerson, Mattis and Kelly 'separate our country from chaos'
Sophie Tatum, CNN

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker said Wednesday that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly "help separate our country from chaos." "I think Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mattis, and Chief of Staff Kelly are those people that help separate our country from chaos, and I support them very much," the Republican chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee told reporters Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

Key Senator Lays Out a Path for Trump on Iran Nuclear Deal
Kambiz Foroohar, Bloomberg

A key U.S. senator long opposed to the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran offered a path for President Donald Trump to distance himself from the accord without immediately quitting it, imposing new sanctions or carrying out military action. Arkansas Republican Tom Cotton, a member of the Armed Services Committee, said Trump should "decertify" Iran's compliance with the agreement in a report required by Congress every 90 days and next due on Oct. 15.

Koch-backed group targets red-state Dems on tax reform
Jonathan Easley, The Hill

The fiscally conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is putting millions of dollars behind an ad-buy pressuring red-state Democrats up for reelection in 2018 to support the GOP's tax reform proposals. AFP, which is backed by billionaire Republican donors Charles and David Koch, has purchased \$4.5 million of air-time in three states, calling on Democratic Sens. Claire McCaskill (Mo.), Tammy Baldwin (Wis.) and Joe Donnelly (Ind.) to support a tax code overhaul.

Roy Moore's Facebook page shared inflammatory memes, article praising Russia's anti-gay laws
Andrew Kaczynski and Nathan McDermott, CNN

The Facebook page belonging to Roy Moore, the Republican nominee for US Senate in Alabama, in February included a shared image of a group of black men standing on a destroyed police car during the 2015 Baltimore riots. Overlaying the image was text that read, "Want to stop riots? Play the National Anthem. They'll all sit down."

Roy Moore's disruption of Washington has already begun, and more is on the way
Sean Sullivan, The Washington Post

Roy Moore didn't travel to Washington on Wednesday to kiss and make up with the Republican leaders who opposed his nomination to fill the Senate seat formerly held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. He came to continue the revolt.

As Messer and Rokita Squabble, Third GOP Indiana Senate Hopeful Sees Opening
Griffin Connolly, Roll Call

As Indiana Reps. Luke Messer and Todd Rokita try to out-insult each other in the Republican primary for the 2018 Indiana Senate race, a third

candidate seeks to quietly bypass the kerfuffle en route to the GOP nod. State Rep. Mike Braun has flooded his war chest with nearly \$800,000 of his own money and raised \$200,000 more, mostly from business associates of his automotive supply business.

Schumer to visit WV for fundraiser
Jake Zuckerman, Charleston Gazette-Mail

One of the highest ranking congressional Democrats will visit West Virginia in November for a fundraiser hosted by the state Democratic Party. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will attend the annual dinner on Nov. 3 at the Charleston Civic Center, according to a news release from the party.

House

Rep. Tim Murphy announces he will not seek re-election
Tracie Mauriello and Chris Potter, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Congressman Tim Murphy announced Wednesday that he will not seek re-election. "After discussions with my family and staff, I have come to the decision that I will not seek reelection to Congress at the end of my current term," the Upper St. Clair Republican said in a statement.

Bannon Backs Grimm, Ex-Congressman and Felon, in G.O.P. Challenge
Shane Goldmacher, The New York Times

Michael Grimm, who is trying to win back his old House seat after serving time in federal prison, secured a notable new supporter on Wednesday: Stephen K. Bannon, President Trump's former chief strategist, who has sought to bolster the candidacies of populist outsiders since leaving the White House. The two met at Mr. Bannon's Capitol Hill townhouse on Wednesday afternoon, three days after Mr. Grimm

announced he was challenging Representative Dan Donovan of Staten Island for the Republican nomination in New York City's last G.O.P.-held congressional seat.

South Carolina Democrat Archie Parnell Making 2018 Announcement
Simone Pathé, Roll Call

South Carolina Democrat Archie Parnell is set to make a "major announcement" on Oct. 9 in his hometown of Sumter about his 2018 plans, raising the likelihood that he will make another run for the Palmetto State's 5th District. Parnell will also appear at a kickoff event for the York County Democratic Party in Rock Hill the same day.

States

Democrat Northam leads Republican Gillespie in race for Virginia governor, new poll finds
Gregory S. Schneider and Scott Clement, The Washington Post

A relatively unified party base gives Democrat Ralph Northam a clear lead over Republican Ed Gillespie heading into the final month of the Virginia governor's race, according to a new Washington Post-Schar School poll. Northam leads Gillespie by 53 percent to 40 percent among likely voters, with 4 percent supporting Libertarian Cliff Hyra.

School bullies could face criminal charges under Ohio bill
Jessie Balmert, Cincinnati Enquirer

School bullies who repeatedly torment their victims would face criminal charges under a new proposal from a Democratic lawmaker. Bullying can lead to violence, retaliation and even suicide, said Sen. Sandra Williams,

D-Cleveland, who said she recently intervened when a relative was repeatedly bullied at school.

Missouri's Greitens Campaigns for Fellow Republicans **The Associated Press**

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens is traveling to Virginia to support fellow Republican Ed Gillespie's campaign for governor. Greitens' spokesman Parker Briden on Wednesday confirmed the first-time elected official's attendance as the featured speaker at the early Thursday event.

NC House wants to examine MLS stadium idea. A Senate leader isn't sold **Paul A. Specht, The News & Observer**

Two months after a soccer franchise owner announced his hopes to build a stadium on state-owned land in downtown Raleigh, state leaders are responding with proposed legislation. The North Carolina Football Club, which wants to jump from a second-tier league to Major League Soccer, in July unveiled a proposal to build a \$150 million stadium and entertainment complex at the corner of Salisbury and Peace streets in downtown Raleigh.

Advocacy

Facebook fights back **David McCabe and Sara Fischer, Axios**

Facebook is stepping up its offensive to respond to questions about the role it played in Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. The moves come as it prepares to testify on Capitol Hill.

Reddit hires first lobbyists **Harper Neidig, The Hill**

The message board site Reddit has hired its first federal lobbyists, according to disclosure forms obtained this week. The move comes while lawmakers are increasingly scrutinizing web platform use by political entities.

The UAE Secretly Picked Up the Tab for the Egyptian Dictatorship's D.C. Lobbying **Zaid Jilani, The Intercept**

When Egypt went to work to establish the credibility of its repressive government in Washington, it had help from the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States, Yousef Al Otaiba. Emails obtained by The Intercept show that Otaiba and the UAE essentially picked up the tab for Egypt's lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

The evidence is mounting: There are now at least a dozen studies that illustrate the failure of the Durbin amendment. In fact, a [recent paper](#) from Federal Reserve economists provides empirical evidence of harm to the consumer. [Get the facts](#) from the Electronic Payments Coalition.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

The Gun Control Mirage **The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

Stephen Paddock's motives for his murderous rampage in Las Vegas on Sunday still aren't known, and neither are all the details of his plans and methods. But since our friends on the left have decided to make this a

debate over gun control, someone has to explain why their familiar solutions won't stop mass shootings.

Donald Trump's Foreign Policy Circus
The Editorial Board, The New York Times

Another day, another embarrassing foreign policy circus in the nation's capital that can only further erode trust in American leadership at home and abroad. At its center is Rex Tillerson, who traded his job as top dog at the oil giant ExxonMobil to become secretary of state, only to find himself substantively and personally undercut by President Trump as recently as Sunday on the issue of Korea, where Mr. Tillerson wanted negotiations as Mr. Trump threatened war.

This GOP tax proposal isn't fair. Here's what would be.
Editorial Board, The Washington Post

Gary Cohn, a Trump administration cheerleader for tax reform, said recently that the administration is "trying to get rid of all of the loopholes and all of the deductions that mostly wealthy people use." Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Election Officials Attacked From All Sides on Purging Voter Rolls
Rebecca Beitsch, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Local and state election officials have long faced the difficult task of facilitating one of democracy's central tenets: figuring out who to take off outdated voter rolls without disenfranchising eligible voters. Increasingly, though, officials find themselves caught in the middle as competing interest groups from the right and left work - often through the court system - to influence how thousands of local election officials do their jobs.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

In a recent paper, Federal Reserve economists confirm what many industry experts have said before: The Durbin amendment harms consumers. There are now at least a dozen studies that illustrate why this failed policy must be repealed. Learn the truth from EPC.

Research Reports and Polling

???Disaster Relief: America's Response to Recent Hurricanes **The Associated Press and NORC**

In the aftermath of the recent devastating hurricanes about half of Americans approve of how President Trump has handled disaster relief for the victims within the United States, but just a third approve of his response to those impacted in the U.S. territories, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Nearly half disapprove of his handling of disaster relief in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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Labor Reform Policy Forum

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Please join [Americans for Prosperity](#)-Columbus and The Heartland Institute for their "Policy Brief: Labor Reform in 2017" event, which will be held on Thursday, November 2, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio.

What impacts do labor regulations have on Ohio's employees

and businesses? Which policies are working, and which are stifling growth? What changes need to take place to meet the needs of our modern labor force? We aim to answer these questions and more at the "Policy Brief: Labor Reform in 2017" event.



Americans for Prosperity-Columbus and The Heartland Institute will welcome Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, and Jesse Hathaway, research fellow for Heartland's Center on Budgets and Taxes, as guest panelists.

Our "Policy Brief" event series aims to update Ohioans on timely issues through bi-monthly discussions with policy experts. Attendees will have the opportunity to question speakers after each forum and network with other professionals throughout the evening.

[Register Now](#)

Future Events

Saturday, November 4
Educational Freedom Tour- stop 2
O'Fallon, IL

Thursday, November 9
America First Energy Conference
Houston, TX

Thursday, November 16
Dan Pilla talks about his chapter in Heartland's new book *Patriot's Tool Box*
Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday, December 7
Educational Freedom Tour - stop 3
Bettendorf, IA

Saturday, December 9
Helping Students Understand the Constitution
Arlington Heights, IL

Wednesday, December 13
Occupational Licensing

Arlington Heights, IL



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Our events with activists and intellectuals are specifically designed to showcase freedom. We are close to your home with easy access and plenty of free parking, so we hope to see you at our Arlington Heights facility.

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From: Nikki Comerford

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 9:26 AM

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Subject: WATCH LIVE TODAY AT 10AM (CT) THE EDUCATION FREEDOM TOUR KICK OFF EVENT

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 Freedom Rising
Heartland Events
Mark your calendar. Plan to attend. Be our guest.

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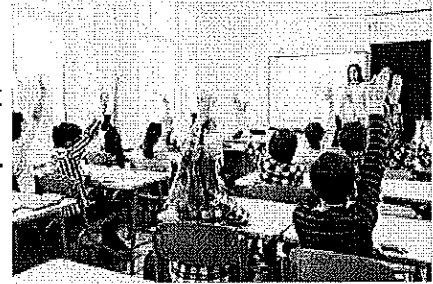
Education Freedom Tour Kickoff Event **Watch live at 10AM (CT)**

Some of the issues that will be addressed:

- Why do your property taxes keep increasing?
- How is education funded in Illinois?

- Will the Chicago Public School District receive a state bailout?
- How can Illinois taxpayers fight to decrease property taxes?
- What is education freedom?
- Should parents be able to decide which school their child attends?
- What are the differences between public, private, and charter schools?
- What is the best way to implement education freedom: vouchers, education savings accounts, or tax-credit scholarships?

This event will help you learn more about education freedom and funding. After attending, you will be able to inform your family, friends, neighbors, legislators, school board members, and, most importantly, other parents about these significant issues.



Schedule:

- 10:15 am – Introduction of Heartland by Lennie Jarratt
- 10:20 am – Introduction of Americans for Prosperity
- 10:25 am – Andrew Nelms- Illinois property taxes
- 10:35 am – Representative Allen Skillicorn-Illinois property taxes and education choice
- 10:50 am 30 Lennie Jarratt-education choice
- 11:00 am – Panelist discussion
- 11:15 am – Audience Q & A

Watch live!

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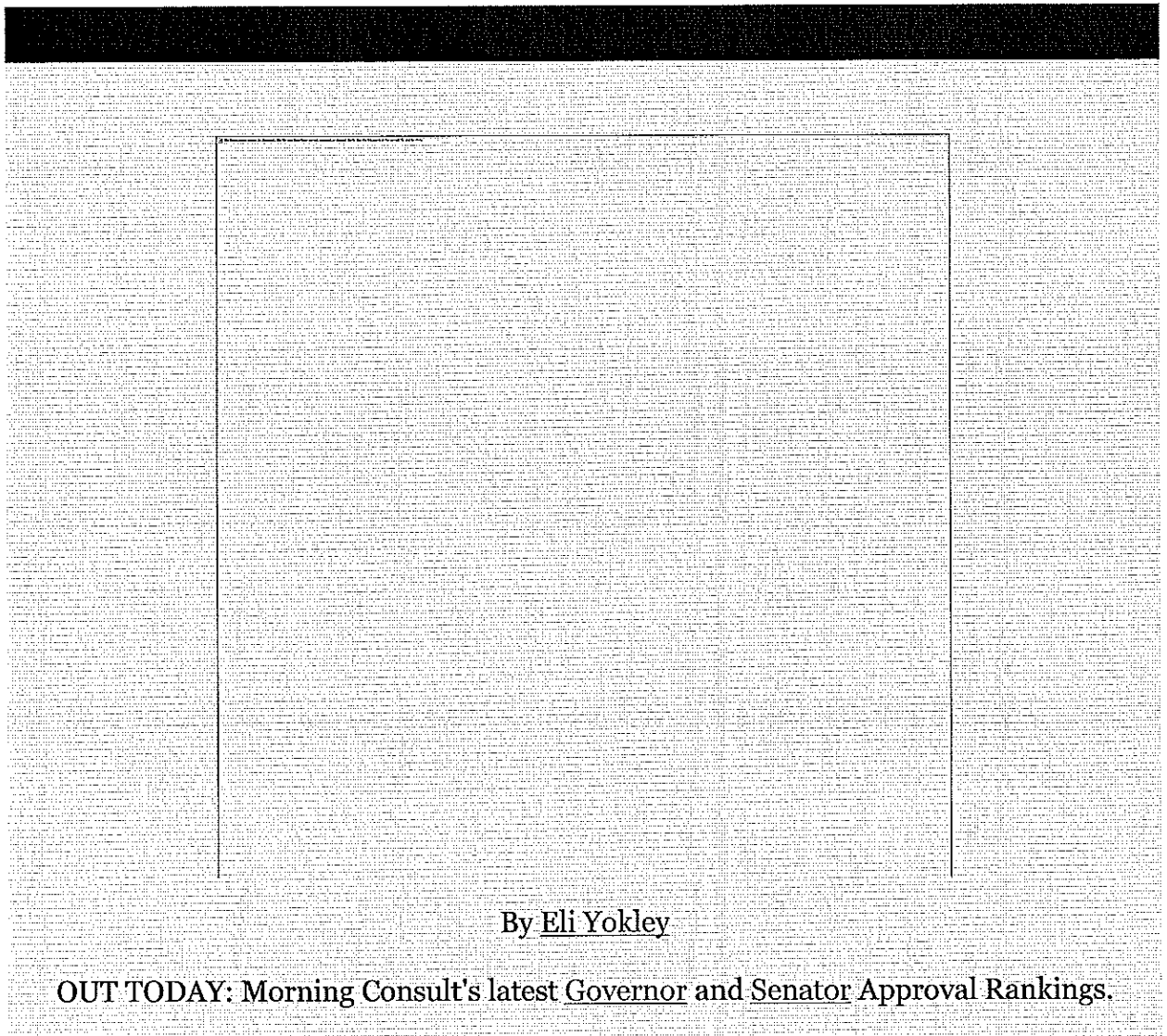
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By Eli Yokley

OUT TODAY: Morning Consult's latest Governor and Senator Approval Rankings.

Top Stories

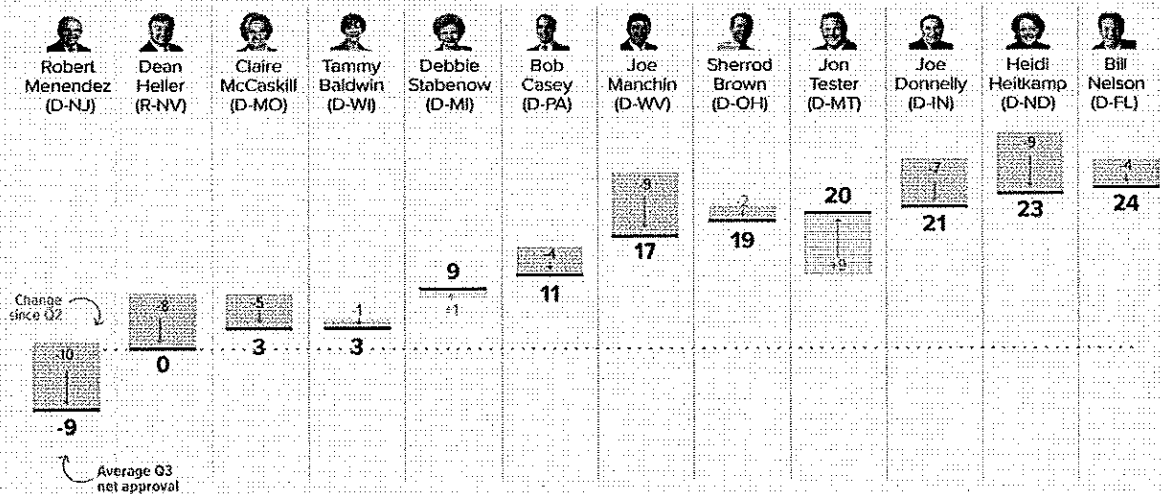
- Representatives from Facebook Inc., Twitter Inc. and Google Inc. are set to testify today at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing about Russia's attempts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election. According to prepared testimony, Russian-backed Facebook posts reached 126 million users, while Russian-linked accounts posted more than 131,000 tweets and more than 1,000 videos were uploaded to YouTube by Russians - far more information than the companies previously revealed. ([The New York Times](#))
- President Donald Trump has become increasingly concerned that special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe could be moving toward an investigation into his personal dealings. Trump privately sought to downplay Paul Manafort's role in his presidential campaign after the former campaign chairman and his longtime business associate, Rick Gates, were indicted, while the White House publicly distanced itself from former campaign adviser George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. ([The Associated Press](#))
- House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) said no decision has been made on a proposal to gradually phase in the GOP's proposed corporate tax cut. Republican lawmakers are preparing to introduce their tax overhaul legislation on Wednesday, and Trump wants the corporate rate cut immediately. ([Bloomberg](#))
- Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan - both Republicans in traditionally blue states - are the nation's most popular governors, according to new poll. ([Morning Consult](#)) A separate survey of constituents in all 50 states found that Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is still America's most popular senator,

while Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is the least popular. ([Morning Consult](#))

Chart Review

How Voters View 2018's Most Vulnerable Senators a Year Out Morning Consult

Net Approval for the Most Vulnerable Senators in 2018
and how it's changed since the second quarter of 2017.



MORNING CONSULT

Q2 poll conducted 04/03-06/18, 2017 among a sample of 141,400 registered voters.
Q3 poll conducted 07/03-09/30, 2017, among a sample of 255,320 registered voters.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

TUESDAY

Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on extremist content and Russian disinformation online	2:30 p.m.
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Sec. Ross testifies at Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on 2020 Census	2:30 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY

Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on influence of social media on the 2016 election	9:30 a.m.
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Senate Banking Committee hearing on Export-Import Bank nominees	10 a.m.
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North Korean defector testifies before House Foreign Affairs Committee	10 a.m.
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Center for American Progress event on the year since the 2016 election	10 a.m.
--	---------

Google, Facebook and Twitter representatives testify before House Intelligence Committee's Russia task force	2 p.m.
--	--------

Sally Yates delivers lecture at Georgetown on criminal justice reform	4 p.m.
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THURSDAY

Reps. Duffy, MacArthur speak at Ripon Society event on Puerto Rico	7:45 a.m.
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Sec. Perry, Sen. Cantwell speak at Axios/NBC News event on energy

8 a.m.

Carter Page testifies before House Intelligence Committee

9 a.m.

Sens. Portman, Whitehouse and Shaheen speak at event on opioids

3 p.m.

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

Should Apple voluntarily activate
FM radio in iPhones?

Most Americans say
YES by a 5-1 margin.

Learn more »



General

Russian Influence Reached 126 Million Through Facebook Alone

Mike Isaac and Daisuke Wakabayashi, The New York Times

Russian agents intending to sow discord among American citizens disseminated inflammatory posts that reached 126 million users on Facebook, published more than 131,000 messages on Twitter and uploaded over 1,000 videos to Google's YouTube service, according to copies of prepared remarks from the companies that were obtained by The New York Times. The detailed disclosures, sent to Congress on Monday by companies whose products are among the most widely used on the internet, came before a series of congressional hearings this week into how third parties used social networks and online services to influence millions of Americans before the 2016 presidential election.

Manafort Faces a Stark Choice: Cooperate or Risk Years in Prison

Christian Berthelsen, Bloomberg

U.S. prosecutors filed a straightforward, easy-to-prove criminal case against former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, leaving him with a stark choice: cooperate or fight the charges and, if he loses, face years in prison. The indictment, unsealed on Monday, relies extensively on so-called document charges - essentially that Manafort and his business partner Richard Gates didn't file reports to the government that they were required to under the law.

FBI Is Probing Puerto Rico Power Contract

Andrew Scurria, The Wall Street Journal

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating a \$300 million contract awarded by Puerto Rico's government power company to a tiny Montana energy to rebuild electrical infrastructure damaged in Hurricane Maria, according to people familiar with the matter. Agents from the FBI's San Juan field office are looking into circumstances

surrounding the deal the public-power monopoly known as Prepa signed with Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC, according to three people familiar with the matter.

U.S. Presses Persian Gulf States to Scale Back North Korea Ties
Ian Talley and Nicolas Parasie, The Wall Street Journal

Trump administration officials, eager to choke off North Korea's global networks, have in recent days urged Persian Gulf countries to clamp down harder on the nuclear-armed state's ties to the region. In three days of high-level talks in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, U.S. Treasury officials pushed regional leaders to tighten financial oversight and reduce the number of North Korean laborers working in the region, many of whom are employed in the construction industry.

Unlocking the Truth about 'Matching' Fundraising Emails
Simone Pathé, Roll Call

At the stroke of midnight on Sept. 30, they finally stopped. But in less than three months, those incessant end-of-quarter fundraising emails that promise donors their contributions will be "matched" will come flooding back to inboxes around America.

Presidential

Trump lashes out on indictments, tries to shift focus to tax reform
Mallory Shelbourne, The Hill

President Trump on Tuesday dismissed the latest wrinkle in the special counsel's investigation into Russia's election meddling, saying the alleged actions of his former campaign chairman occurred prior to his involvement with the Trump campaign. "The Fake News is working overtime. As Paul Manafort's lawyer said, there was 'no collusion' and

events mentioned took place long before he.....came to the campaign," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Mueller probe of Trump administration enters new phase
Zeke Miller and Jonathan Lemire, The Associated Press

Special counsel Robert Muller's charges against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and two other aides marked a new phase in his sprawling investigation into Russia and President Donald Trump, underscoring the ongoing threat Mueller poses to the president. Trump immediately sought to distance himself after Manafort and Rick Gates pleaded not guilty Monday to a 12-count indictment alleging money laundering, conspiracy and other offenses and as another former aide was revealed to be cooperating with authorities after entering a guilty plea for lying to the FBI.

Upstairs at home, with the TV on, Trump fumes over Russia indictments
Robert Costa et al., The Washington Post

President Trump woke before dawn on Monday and burrowed in at the White House residence to wait for the Russia bombshell he knew was coming. Separated from most of his West Wing staff - who fretted over why he was late getting to the Oval Office - Trump clicked on the television and spent the morning playing fuming media critic, legal analyst and crisis communications strategist, according to several people close to him.

Kelly says Civil War was caused by 'lack of compromise'
Brent D. Griffiths, Politico

White House chief of staff John Kelly said Monday that the Civil War was "caused by a lack of an ability [to] compromise" and that Confederate general Robert E. Lee was "an honorable man." "I would tell you that

Robert E. Lee was an honorable man," Kelly told Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

Senate

Lawmakers to Trump: Leave Mueller alone **Mary Clare Jalonick, The Associated Press**

Democrats - and a few Republicans - in Congress have a clear message for President Donald Trump: Don't mess with Robert Mueller. Concerned that the president may fight back after Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling led to two indictments and a guilty plea for his former advisers Monday, top Democrats laid down a marker for the president, who earlier in the year criticized Mueller and the probe.

Key GOP Senator Susan Collins Lays Out Her Demands for Tax Bill **Sahil Kapur, Bloomberg**

Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine said Monday she's opposed to two tax breaks for the wealthy that her party leaders are pushing for, indicating that her vote won't be easy to win on President Donald Trump's top legislative priority. "I do not believe that the top rate should be lowered for individuals who are making more than \$1 million a year," Collins said during an interview with Bloomberg News.

Donald Trump's Ex-Im Bank Nominee, a Longtime Critic of Agency, Faces Senate Test **Kristina Peterson and Byron Tau, The Wall Street Journal**

A long-brewing fight over former Rep. Scott Garrett's candidacy to lead the Export-Import Bank, an agency he has twice voted to shut down, will come to a head this week when he testifies in front of a Senate panel reviewing his nomination. President Donald Trump's decision to nominate Mr. Garrett, a New Jersey Republican who served seven terms

in the House before losing last November, has revived an internal GOP debate over the Ex-Im Bank's effectiveness.

How Voters View 2018's Most Vulnerable Senators A Year Out **Eli Yokley, Morning Consult**

Three Democrats viewed as vulnerable to re-election challenges next year have managed to hit above 50 percent approval in their home states, according to the new Morning Consult Senator Approval Rankings - bucking the larger trend in the Senate, where 65 members ended the third quarter at or below 50 percent approval. The three senators - Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Jon Tester of Montana - hail from states President Donald Trump won in 2016, just like the other Democratic senators seen as vulnerable.

House

House Panel's Talk of Phased-in Tax Cut Counters Trump's Wishes **Jennifer Jacobs and Anna Edgerton, Bloomberg**

House tax writers are discussing a gradual phase-in for President Donald Trump and Republican leaders' proposed corporate tax-rate cut - on a schedule that would put the rate at 20 percent in 2022, according to a member of the chamber's tax-writing committee and a person familiar with the discussions. The phase-in plan is under discussion, but isn't yet final, said a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, who asked not to be named because the discussions are private.

"Nothing Is Going To Derail What We're Doing In Congress," Says Paul Ryan **Henry J. Gomez, BuzzFeed News**

Nothing will keep Speaker Paul Ryan from talking about tax policy, not even the indictment of President Trump's former campaign chairman.

Ryan called in Monday for a scheduled interview with Jerry Bader of WTAQ in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Pelosi Backs Feinstein in California Senate Race **Bridget Bowman, Roll Call**

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced Monday she is endorsing Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein in her bid for a fifth term. California State Senate President Kevin de León, a Democrat, announced recently he would challenge Feinstein.

States

West Virginia Governor's Switch to GOP Yet to Pay Political Dividends **Cameron Easley, Morning Consult**

As a bruising budget standoff over the first six months of 2017 dented West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice's popularity, his decision to leave the Democratic Party did little to help the situation, according to the most recent Governor Approval Rankings from Morning Consult. Justice, who announced at an Aug. 3 rally with President Donald Trump that he was returning to the Republican Party, posted the largest net slide (minus 22 percentage points) in approval rating of any U.S. governor from the second quarter to the third quarter of 2017.

Gillespie emphasizes common background with Rubio as protesters call him racist **Jenna Portnoy, The Washington Post**

Outside a rally for Ed Gillespie with Sen. Marco Rubio Tuesday night in Loudoun County, immigrant rights activists labeled the Republican candidate for governor racist for a campaign that they say scapegoats immigrants. Inside, surrounded by supporters, Gillespie talked about how much he has in common with Rubio (R-Fla.), a 2016 candidate for

president popular in the northern Virginia suburbs, and fellow child of immigrants.

How the Kochs are trying to shake up public schools, one state at a time

Kimberly Hefling, Politico

With school choice efforts stalled in Washington, the billionaire Koch brothers' network is engaged in state-by-state battles with teachers' unions, politicians and parent groups to push for public funding of private and charter schools. One of the newest campaigns is the Libre Initiative, a grassroots drive targeting Hispanic families in 11 states so far, under the umbrella of the Charles and David Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity, a powerful conservative and libertarian advocacy group.

In the Heart of 'The Resistance,' California Conservatives Are Invigorated

Jeremy W. Peters, The New York Times

California conservatives are feeling a strange sense of invigoration these days. Yes, they are vastly outnumbered, shouted off college campuses and scolded that their way of politics is an anachronism in this bright blue bulwark of the liberal resistance.

Missouri groups try again to get medical marijuana on the ballot

Jack Suntrup, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Proponents of legalizing marijuana for medical use say 2018 is the year for Missouri. Public opinion has shifted.

Advocacy

Google's Dominance in Washington Faces a Reckoning

John D. McKinnon and Brody Mullins, The Wall Street Journal

Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., made a big bet on Hillary Clinton winning the 2016 presidential election. Employees donated \$1.6 million to her campaign, about 80% more than the amount given by workers at any other corporation, and Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt helped set up companies to analyze political data for the campaign.

A Message from the National Association of Broadcasters:

Former FEMA head Craig Fugate has said activating FM radio in smartphones would "ensure if all else fails, you can still get information from broadcasters" during times of emergency.

Likewise, a recent Morning Consult survey reveals that 79 percent of Americans are likely to listen to FM radio on their smartphones for breaking news and updates when internet or mobile connectivity are unavailable due to an emergency. [Find out more.](#)

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Multi-Pronged Approach Needed in Opioid Fight Rep. Fred Upton and Rep. Tim Walberg, Morning Consult

The opioid crisis is one that truly knows no bounds. It affects so many of us in different and profound ways.

The Manafort Indictment The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

Special Counsel Robert Mueller indicted former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort for tax fraud on Monday, and the main charge against Donald Trump is poor judgment for hiring the notorious Beltway operator. The indictment accuses Mr. Manafort (and business partner

Richard Gates) of funneling money from a pro-Russia party in Ukraine into offshore shell companies and bank accounts.

Manafort's Indictment Is a Wakeup Call for K Street **Joshua Ian Rosenstein and Joseph E. Sandler, Politico**

Monday's 12-count indictment filed against former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort and his colleague Rick Gates was stunning for a number of reasons: its breadth; the scope of the alleged criminal activity; and, of course, the fact that underpinning much of the indictment are facts demonstrating willful and knowing violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA. The indictment likely means that after many years of lax enforcement, the requirements of this law will finally be taken seriously by the hundreds of law firms, lobbying shops and media relations companies that fall under its purview.

Mueller's Investigation Won't Shake Trump's Base **David French, The New York Times**

On Monday, nothing changed. If you live, as I do, in the heart of Trump country, you know there is no chance that the indictment of Donald Trump's ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort, or the guilty plea of a former foreign policy adviser, George Papadopoulos, will alter our political dynamics.

A Message from the National Association of Broadcasters:

Among major smartphone manufacturers, only Apple does not activate FM radio in its smartphones. Yet, according to a Morning Consult poll, Americans overwhelmingly believe Apple should voluntarily activate FM reception in their devices by a five-to-one margin. [Find out more.](#)

Research Reports and Polling

America's Most and Least Popular Senators **Eli Yokley, Morning Consult**

Along with President Donald Trump's declining support across the country, approval ratings for nearly all senators went down in their home states during the third quarter. The period overlapped with several unsuccessful Republican-led attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

America's Most and Least Popular Governors **Cameron Easley, Morning Consult**

The latest installment of Morning Consult's Governor Approval Rankings - a survey of more than 255,000 registered voters nationwide conducted online from July 1 to Sept. 30 - features a shuffling at the top and bottom, along with a debutant on the list and a new entrant in the highest ranks. Margins of error vary by state.

Democrat Holds 17-Point Likely Voter Lead In Virginia, **Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Small Gender Gap, Huge** **Racial Gap** **Quinnipiac University**

With overwhelming support from non-white voters and double-digit leads among both men and women, Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam holds a 53 - 36 percent likely voter lead over Republican Ed Gillespie in the Virginia governor's race, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Libertarian Party candidate Cliff Hyra has 3 percent.





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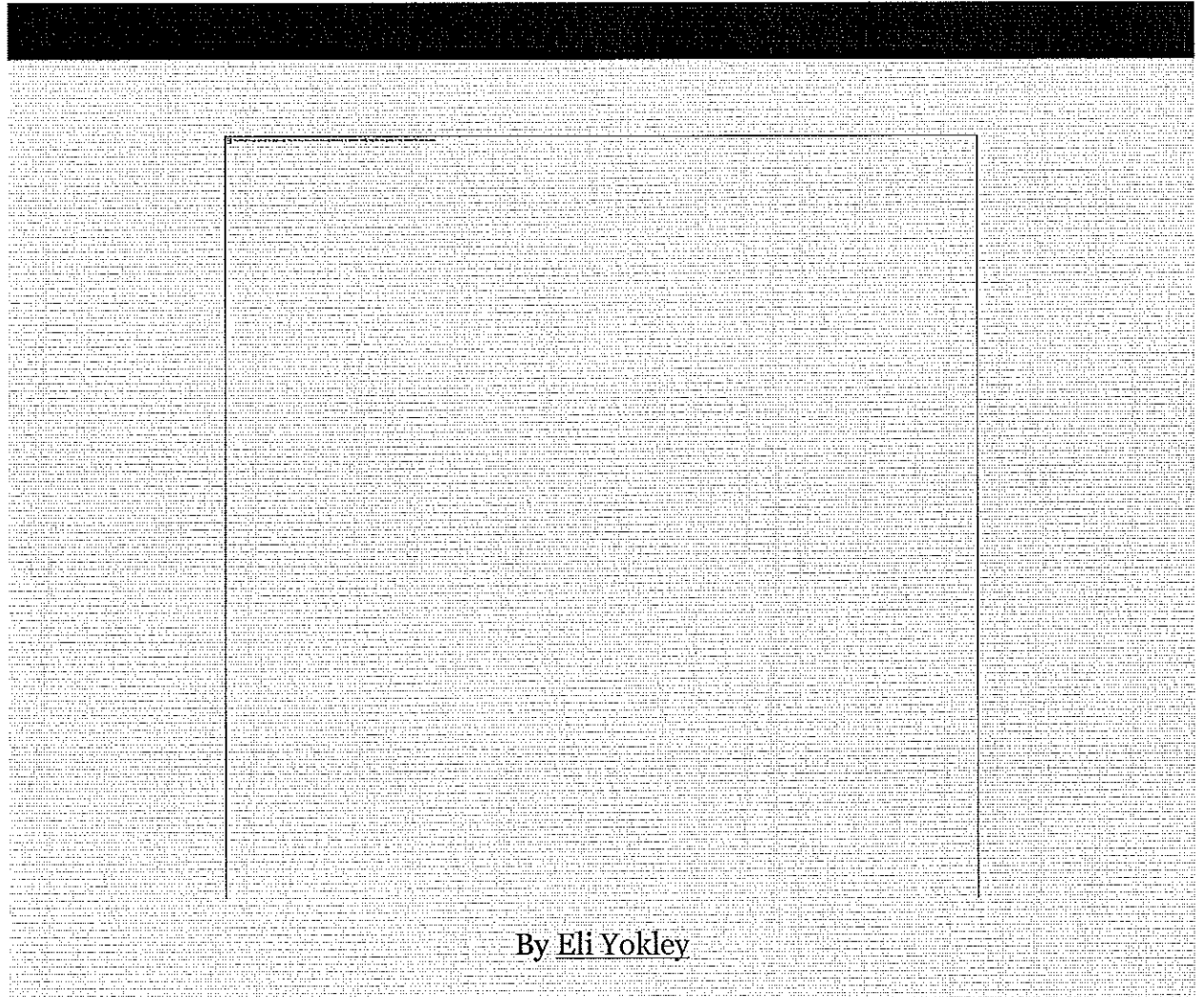
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From: Morning Consult
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic Payments Coalition: Senate Confirms Nielsen to Lead DHS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



Top Stories

- The Senate voted 62 to 37 to confirm Kirstjen Nielsen to lead the Department of Homeland Security. Nielsen had served as chief of staff to John Kelly when he was DHS secretary, and she later became a top White House aide when Kelly was named President Donald Trump's chief of staff. ([CNN](#))
- International leaders criticized Trump's plan to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, which he is set to announce today. Pope Francis said he was "profoundly concerned," while China raised concerns about "possible aggravation of regional tensions." ([The Associated Press](#))
- Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, is scheduled to testify today before the House Intelligence Committee behind closed doors. Democratic investigators are interested in the Trump family's financial ties to Moscow and any communications Trump Jr. had with former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about his meeting with Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the United States. ([The Hill](#))
- A new poll found that 61 percent of registered voters say Congress should probe all credible allegations of sexual misconduct against a sitting politician, even if the alleged events took place before the lawmaker took office. The survey comes amid allegations of past sexual misconduct involving Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and ahead of the Dec. 12 special election for Senate in Alabama, where Republican nominee Roy Moore has been accused of sexual misconduct from decades ago. ([Morning Consult](#))

Deadline Looming, House GOP Keeps Talking About Funding Options

Government shutdowns have typically occurred when different parties control either the House, Senate or White House — aside from funding lapses in the early 1970s during which the government remained functioning.

Date	Party Control			Days of shutdown	Reason
Sep 30, 2013	●	●	●		House GOP and Senate deadlocked over changes to the health care law
Dec 15, 1995	●	●	●		GOP-led Congress failed to pass six titles and Clinton vetoed three others
Nov 13, 1995	●	●	●		Clinton vetoed CR to block Medicare premium increases
Oct 5, 1990	●	●	●		H. W. Bush vetoed CR, pressing Democratic Congress to pass a budget
	House	Senate	President		

Roll Call

10 a.m.

Sen. Burr speaks at Council on Foreign Relations event	12:45 p.m.
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Sen. Coons speaks at ITIF event on the economy	1 p.m.
--	--------

House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Brexit negotiations	2 p.m.
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THURSDAY

ACCF event on Trump's economic policy agenda	9:30 a.m.
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Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on sanctions for nonproliferation	10 a.m.
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Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's acquisition reform efforts	10 a.m.
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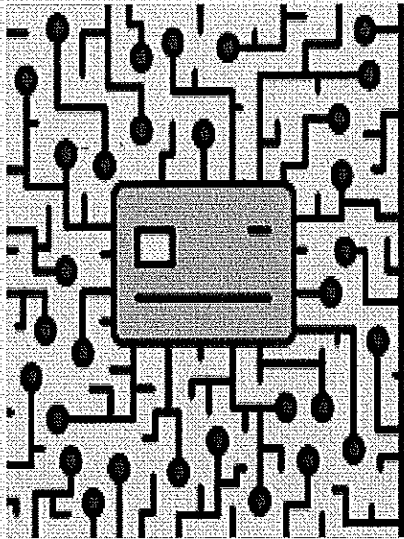
FBI director testifies before House Judiciary Committee	10 a.m.
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CSIS event on OPEC's World Oil Outlook 2017	2 p.m.
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FRIDAY

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on China and the U.S.-Japan alliance	10:30 a.m.
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Trump campaign rally in Pensacola, Fla.	7 p.m.
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NEW REPORT:

EMV is critical in reducing counterfeit payment fraud. Payments innovation is key to data security's future.



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General

Voters Say No Statute of Limitations for Lawmakers Accused of Sexual Misconduct

Eli Yokley, Morning Consult

Most voters say that lawmakers accused of sexual misconduct should be formally investigated, even if the alleged events occurred before they took office, a new Morning Consult/Politico poll shows. Sixty-one percent of poll respondents said Congress should probe all credible allegations of sexual misconduct against a sitting politician, while 28 percent said the legislative body should only investigate events that took place after a lawmaker was sworn in.

Justices Sharply Divided in Wedding Cake Case

Adam Liptak, The New York Times

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who almost certainly holds the crucial vote in the case of a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple, sent sharply contradictory messages when it was argued

Tuesday at the Supreme Court. He asked a lawyer for the Trump administration whether the baker, Jack Phillips, could put a sign in his window saying, "We don't bake cakes for gay weddings."

DOJ reviewing whether gun bump stocks should be banned **Cristiano Lima, Politico**

Federal authorities announced Tuesday they are reviewing whether bump stocks, the gun accessory used in a Las Vegas shooting in October that killed 58 concert-goers, should be prohibited. The Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said the process will seek to determine whether existing regulations outlawing the possession of machine guns can be applied to the accessory, which lets semi-automatic weapons fire more rapidly.

Presidential

Warnings intensify as Trump readies Jerusalem declaration **Josef Federman and Matthew Lee, The Associated Press**

America's friends and foes unleashed fierce criticism on Wednesday ahead of President Donald Trump's announcement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. While Israel welcomed the news, Palestinian officials declared the Mideast peace process "finished" and Turkey announced it would host a meeting of Islamic nations next week to give Muslim countries' leaders an opportunity to coordinate a response.

Trump pressuring congressional Republicans to speed up on tax reform

Nancy Cook and Aaron Lorenzo, Politico

President Donald Trump has told congressional leaders he'd like the final deal on tax reform to move even faster than the Dec. 22 goal they've set, according to White House officials. "We want it to proceed as quickly as

possible, and we've communicated that to the Hill in a lot of ways," said Marc Short, White House director of legislative affairs.

Trump pushing to dismiss suit brought by former 'Apprentice' contestant over groping claims
Laura Nahmias, Politico

Sexual harassment allegations against President Donald Trump dating back to his days hosting the reality TV show "The Apprentice" will be raised in a New York courtroom Tuesday afternoon, where a judge will hear arguments on a motion to dismiss a suit brought by a former contestant who says Trump groped her a decade ago. Summer Zervos filed a defamation suit after Trump issued a statement appearing to dismiss her allegations that he repeatedly kissed her on the mouth, grabbed her breast and thrust his genitals at her when she appeared on the show in 2007.

Senate

Senate confirms Trump's 2nd permanent DHS chief
Eli Watkins, CNN

The Senate on Tuesday confirmed Kirstjen Nielsen to be secretary of Homeland Security, permanently filling the vacancy created when President Donald Trump selected retired Gen. John Kelly to be his chief of staff. Kelly left the Department of Homeland Security for the White House in late July during a shakeup that included the resignation of the former chief of staff, Reince Priebus.

GOP senators grumble over Trump, RNC backing Moore
Seung Min Kim and Kevin Robillard, Politico

Senate Republicans are still trying to keep their distance from Roy Moore, creating a fresh break with President Donald Trump and the Republican National Committee, which have re-embraced Moore less than a week before a key special Senate election despite accusations of

child molestation against the Alabama Republican. Both the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC controlled by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said they plan on staying out of the contest. Several Republican senators furiously protested the RNC's decision on Tuesday.

Bannon Finds New Fight Backing Roy Moore, but Risks Are High

Jeremy W. Peters, The New York Times

Four months ago, Stephen K. Bannon was plotting a takeover of Washington and the Republican Party from his office in the West Wing as chief strategist to President Trump. On Tuesday, Mr. Bannon the private citizen stood where his latest fight had taken him: the mulch floor of a barn in southern Alabama, where he delivered a passionate plea to elect Roy S. Moore, the former judge who faces numerous accusations that he preyed on young women, some of them teenagers.

Democrats place hold on McFarland nomination **Manu Raju and Jeremy Herb, CNN**

Democrats have placed a hold on the nomination of KT McFarland to be ambassador to Singapore until she answers their questions about her knowledge of communications between former national security adviser Michael Flynn and Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak, a Democratic source told CNN. McFarland told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in written comments that she "was not aware" of any communications between Flynn and the Russian ambassador - an assertion that appears to be contradicted by court documents unsealed Friday after Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Senate Banking Advances Powell Nomination for Fed Chairman

Doug Sword, Roll Call

The Senate Banking Committee voted 22-1 Tuesday to recommend confirmation of Jerome Powell as the next chairman of the Federal

Reserve. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren voted against the recommendation.

E.W. Jackson, conservative firebrand, preparing U.S. Senate bid in Virginia

Jenna Portnoy, The Washington Post

E.W. Jackson, a firebrand minister who says yoga leads to Satan and gay people are ill, plans to announce he is seeking the Republican nomination to challenge U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) next year, according to Jackson's finance director. Jackson will announce his candidacy on Dec. 11 in the Chesapeake area, said Steven Thomas, who said he is raising money for Jackson's campaign and filled the same role during Jackson's 2013 losing bid for lieutenant governor.

House

Trump Jr. set for high-stakes interview with House intel panel
Katie Bo Williams and Olivia Beavers, The Hill

Donald Trump Jr. is set on Wednesday to testify before congressional investigators probing Russian interference in the election, the latest high-stakes interview of a member of President Trump's immediate family. The interview, which is voluntary and will take place behind closed doors with the House Intelligence Committee, is Trump Jr.'s second appearance on Capitol Hill and follows similar interviews by the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

Donald Trump Jr. asked Russian lawyer for info on Clinton Foundation

Ken Dilanian and Natasha Lebedeva, NBC News

Donald Trump Jr. asked a Russian lawyer at the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting whether she had evidence of illegal donations to the Clinton Foundation, the lawyer told the Senate Judiciary Committee in answers to written questions obtained exclusively by NBC News. The lawyer,

Natalia Veselnitskaya, told the committee that she didn't have any such evidence, and that she believes Trump misunderstood the nature of the meeting after receiving emails from a music promoter promising incriminating information on Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump's Democratic opponent.

House GOP Postpones Short-Term Spending Bill Vote
Kristina Peterson, The Wall Street Journal

A dispute among House Republicans over their year-end strategy forced GOP leaders to delay a vote on a stopgap spending bill, with just a handful of days before a partial government shutdown. House GOP leaders were still debating Tuesday evening whether to bring to the floor on Thursday a short-term spending bill to keep the government running through Dec. 22 or Dec. 30.

House GOP exploring tax plan changes to help California, other high-tax states
Mike DeBonis, The Washington Post

Top House Republicans said Tuesday they were exploring changes to their tax plan that would lower tax bills for Californians and others who pay high state income taxes - including by allowing Americans to deduct some state income tax payments from what they owe in federal taxes. House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Tex.) told reporters Tuesday that tax writers are looking at a number of ways to give relief to residents of high-tax states.

Black lawmakers resentful after Conyers resignation
John Bresnahan, Politico

The stunning fall of Democratic Rep. John Conyers - who resigned Tuesday amid a growing sexual-harassment scandal - has left confusion, anger, resentment and bewilderment inside the ranks of the Congressional Black Caucus, a group that Conyers helped found nearly four decades ago. Many CBC members see a double standard at play.

Conservative lawmakers met to discuss GOP chairman's ouster **Scott Wong, The Hill**

Leaders of the conservative Republican Study Committee met last week and discussed their desire to oust Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen as Appropriations chairman after the New Jersey Republican voted against the GOP tax-reform bill, The Hill has learned. Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), a former Republican Study Committee (RSC) chairman who's now the party's chief vote-counter, participated in that discussion last Thursday, GOP sources said.

Lexington Mayor Jim Gray running for Congress **Daniel Desrochers, Lexington Herald Leader**

After months of will-he, won't-he whispering among Kentucky Democrats, Lexington Mayor Jim Gray made it official early Tuesday: He's running for Congress. "We need to bring people together; we need to reach across partisan lines," Gray said as he launched his campaign in Berea.

States

Joe Trillo to run for governor as an independent **Patrick Anderson, Providence Journal**

Joseph A. Trillo, the former Republican state lawmaker who became the leading Rhode Island advocate for President Donald Trump, said Tuesday he will run for governor as an independent, shocking many in the party he is leaving and adding a new wrinkle to the developing 2018 race. "To win with my message in Rhode Island I will need Democratic support. I feel this can only be accomplished by shedding party politics and running as an independent," Trillo said as he formally launched his campaign on radio station WPRO Tuesday afternoon.

Ben Jealous releases plan for statewide 'Medicare for all'
Michael Dresser, The Baltimore Sun

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ben Jealous released a plan Wednesday calling on Maryland to take the plunge and create a universal health care system without waiting for the the federal government to take the lead. The release of Jealous' outline of a statewide "Medicare for all" plan comes as he is planning a Wednesday night rally at the College of Notre Dame with 2016 presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, a supporter of single-payer health care who has endorsed Jealous' candidacy.

Women rock Tuesday's runoffs in metro Atlanta
Greg Bluestein, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

There was never any doubt that voters on Tuesday would elect Atlanta's second female mayor. But up and down the ballot for Tuesday's runoff, metro Atlanta voters sent a wave of other women to public office.

Advocacy

Conservative Groups Seeking Support for Tax Cuts Find It a Hard Sell
Jeremy W. Peters, The New York Times

A dozen high school students working for Americans for Prosperity, the conservative political network funded by Charles G. and David H. Koch, fanned out across the Little Havana neighborhood one day last week to make the case that the Republican tax bill was something to get excited about. "We believe it's time to fix our broken tax code and let families keep more of what they earn," Barbara D'Ambrosio, a sophomore, dutifully told an elderly woman who answered the door in her slippers.

How Trump Did the Impossible: Getting Solar and Oil Lobbyists to Unite **Ari Natter and Jennifer A Dlouhy, Bloomberg**

In his 20 years of promoting renewable energy in Washington, Gregory Wetstone has made common cause with a range of special interest groups:- environmentalists, power utilities, even a handful of natural gas producers. But President Donald Trump's efforts to bail out the coal industry led Wetstone, the head of the American Council on Renewable Energy, to find a surprising new partner: Big Oil.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

A new EPC report analyzes how countries that adopt EMV experience lower counterfeit card fraud rates. It's time for a dynamic data security strategy to protect consumers like you. [Learn more](#) from EPC.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Does President Trump Want to Negotiate Middle East Peace? **The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

In the debate over a potential Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, no issue is more charged with emotion than the future of Jerusalem. Should the holy city be the capital of the Israelis alone or shared with the Palestinians?

The Right Move on Monuments **The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

President Trump announced Monday that he will dramatically reduce the acreage of two national monuments. The order ends excessive federal

control of Utah land, allowing residents to protect their own territory and conserve their cultural relics.

What a presidential president would have said about the FBI Editorial Board, The Washington Post

Given how far President Trump strays from the norms of democratic rhetoric, we think it useful from time to time to recall how a more presidential president might speak. This is another such time.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

NEW REPORT: EMV adoption is critical to reduce counterfeit fraud in the U.S. Learn how EPC members are developing and implementing new technologies to make your life more secure.

Research Reports and Polling

One Nation, Divided, Under Trump: Findings from the 2017 American Values Survey **Alex Vandermaas-Peeler et al., PRRI**

Seven in ten (70%) Americans say that recent stories about women being sexually harassed and assaulted in the workplace are part of a broader pattern of how women are often treated, while about one-quarter (24%) say that they are isolated incidents. Nearly eight in ten (78%) women, and more than six in ten (63%) men, say that recent reports of sexual harassment and assault are not isolated incidents.

Best Places to Work in the Federal Government **Partnership for Public Service**

The annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® rankings are produced by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public

Service and Deloitte. The 2017 rankings include the views of more than 498,000 civil servants from 200 federal organizations on a wide range of workplace topics.

Two-thirds of youth fearful about America's future, prefer Democratic control of Congress, Harvard youth poll finds
Harvard Institute of Politics

A new national poll of America's 18- to 29-year-olds by Harvard's Institute of Politics (IOP), located at the Kennedy School of Government, finds that two-thirds of young Americans (67%) are more fearful than hopeful about America's future. Less than one year before the 2018 midterm elections, likely young American voters cite preference for Democratic control of Congress, 65% to 33%.



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To: Rep48
Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

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December 19, 2017

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore Schuring,

As Chairman of We Are Ohio, I am writing to ask you not to sign on as a co-sponsor to Representative John Becker's anti-worker legislation and to oppose Rep. Becker's efforts to hurt working families in your district and across Ohio.

Rep. Becker, we believe, is pursuing an anti-worker agenda pushed by out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

He has outlined six separate constitutional amendments that are all designed to hurt workers, lower wages, decrease safety in the workplace and cause further economic insecurity for the people that you serve.

= 9On behalf of We Are Ohio, I'm asking you to stand for workers in your district and our state and to stand against these out-of-state parties. I'm sure you would agree that Ohio elected officials should represent the people of Ohio, not out of state interests.

We Are Ohio was formed in 2011 when a similar threat to workers' security was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. We asked the citizens to veto Senate Bill 5 that year and restore collective bargaining rights to public sector employees, and they responded with historic numbers.

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans signed petitions to put the citizens veto on the ballot, 17,000 Ohioans volunteered for the campaign and, on Election Day, 2.1 million Ohioans voted to veto Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 margin.


We Are Ohio has remained a force since then. We have held meetings all across the state, have a huge online presence and maintain a database and email list of nearly 1 million voters who agreed with us in 2011.

We believe that the prudent course here is for the legislature to steer away from any anti-worker laws, amendments or ballot initiatives and we ask for your support.

Governor Kasich has acknowledged that such legislation does not attract business to our great state.

I'm respectfully asking you to tell Representative Becker that his ideas are harmful and divisive and that we don't want history to repeat itself.

Sincerely,



= 9Christopher Mabe
Chairman - We Are Ohio

545 E. Town St.

We Are Ohio

Columbus, OH 43215

= A

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From: Zielinski, Justin
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: FW: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

From: We Are Ohio [mailto:bounce@bounce.myngp.com] **On Behalf Of** We Are Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

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Christopher Mabe
Chairman - We Are Ohio

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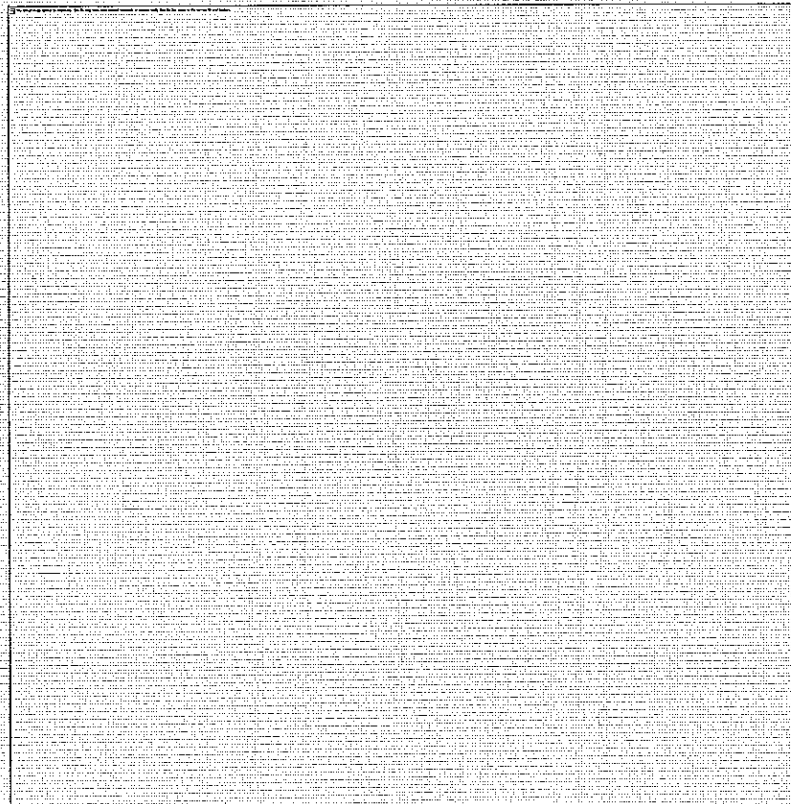
From: Morning Consult

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 8:58 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Congress Passes Spending Bill to Keep Government Funded Through Jan. 19

Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

Morning Consult Washington will be off Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. Publication of the morning briefs and afternoon updates will resume Jan. 2.

Top Stories

- The House and Senate passed a stopgap spending bill that would avert a shutdown by funding the government through Jan. 19, with President Donald Trump expected to sign the measure into law today. The House also passed an \$81 billion disaster relief bill, but the Senate will wait until January to take it up due to Democratic objections. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said he is unlikely to push for changes to programs such as Social Security and Medicare next year, citing a lack of Democratic support. Earlier this month House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) indicated he wants to tackle entitlement reforms in 2018. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- The House Ethics Committee said it is expanding its investigation into Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas), who has been accused of sexually harassing at least one former staffer, to include allegations that he lied to the panel and misused official resources for campaign activities. The committee also said it is appointing a subcommittee to probe allegations of sexual misconduct made by a former campaign aide and a Nevada-based lobbyist against Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-Nev.), who has said he will not seek re-election next year. ([Politico](#))
- The Senate spent more than \$1.45 million over the past 20 years settling harassment and discrimination cases, according to data released by the Senate Rules Committee. While the data did not list specific settlements, the Senate's Office of Compliance has settled sexual discrimination and reprisal cases from a member-led office. ([The Hill](#))
- A federal judge in New York dismissed a lawsuit that alleged Trump violates the Constitution when his businesses receive payments from foreign and state governments, saying the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the suit. The ruling did not

address whether government payments to Trump's businesses violate the Constitution's emoluments clauses. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

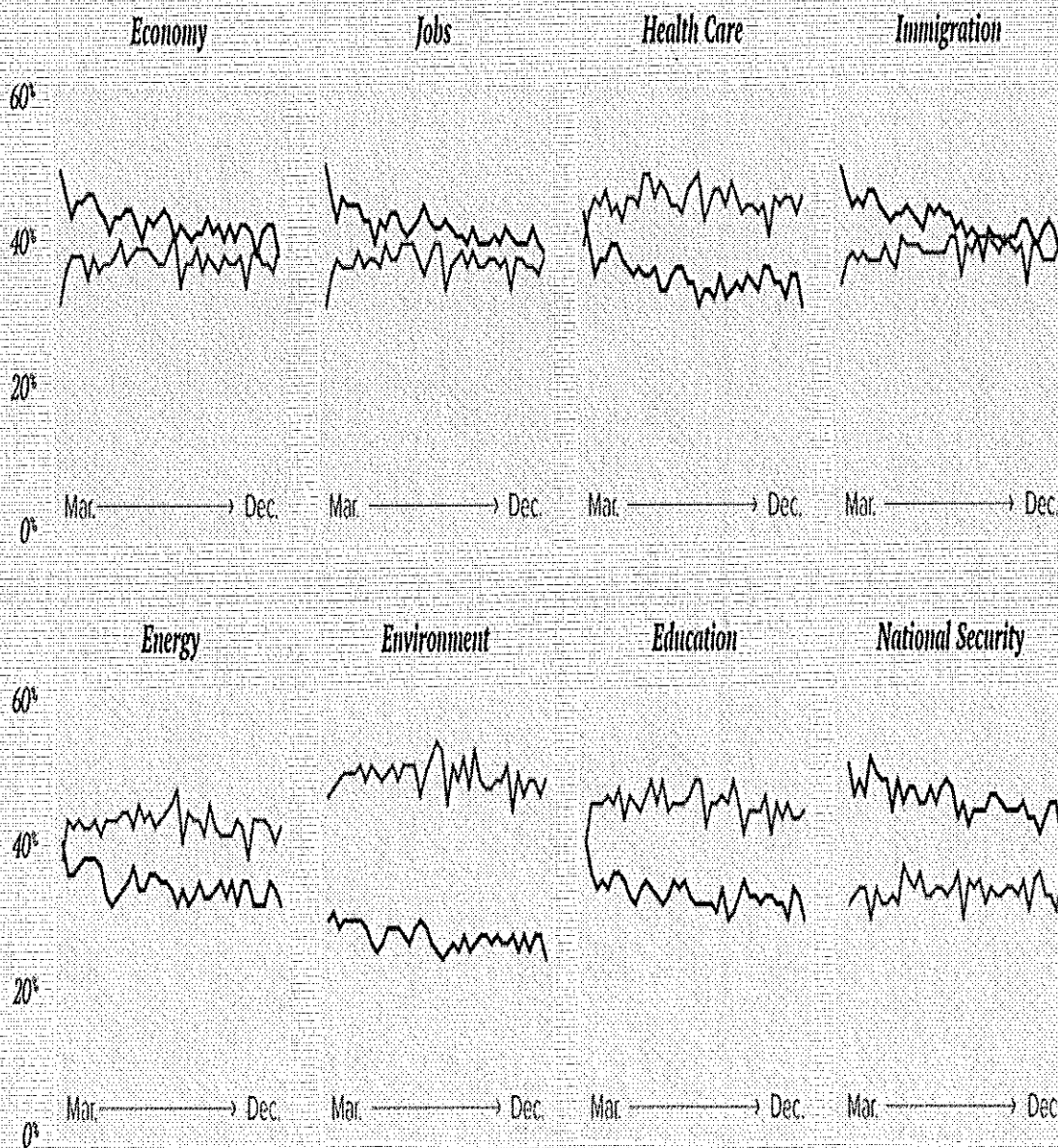
Shifting Opinion on GOP Leaders Signals Risks Ahead of Midterm Elections
Morning Consult

Voters' Shifting Trust in Each Party, by Issue

Who do you trust more to handle
each of the following issues?

— Congressional Republicans

— Congressional Democrats



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

A large, stylized, light-colored number '2017' is centered on a dark, textured background. The numbers have a slightly distressed or hand-drawn appearance. The background is a dark, circular shape with a grainy texture, set against a lighter, textured background.

2017 Brands in Review

This year, Morning Consult conducted nearly 1 million survey interviews on nearly 1,000 brands. Get a never-before-seen look at how public perception changed for the world's biggest brands.

General

Senate passes stopgap spending bill, allowing Congress to avert partial government shutdown

Mike DeBonis and Eric Werner, The Washington Post

Congress passed a stopgap spending bill Thursday, averting a partial government shutdown at midnight Friday but pushing into January showdowns on spending, immigration, health care and national security. Among the issues still to be resolved is federal aid for victims of recent hurricanes and wildfires.

Obamacare enrollment down only slightly after late surge in demand

Caroline Humer, Reuters

Slightly fewer Americans have enrolled for insurance through the federal Obamacare marketplace compared to a year ago, the government said on Thursday, but the number was higher than expected in light of steps taken by President Donald Trump and Congress to undermine the 2010 law. After a surge in the final days of enrollment, about 8.8 million new and returning customers signed up for 2018 health insurance policies from private insurers on the HealthCare.gov online marketplace, a decline of about 4 percent from the figures for 2017 policies, preliminary figures released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) showed.

RNC launching multimillion-dollar effort to hit Dems on tax reform in 2018

Lisa Hagen, The Hill

The Republican National Committee (RNC) is gearing up to launch a multimillion-dollar effort at the start of 2018 aimed at vulnerable Democrats who voted against the GOP's tax bill. In January, the RNC will institute the second phase of its data-focused field program to reach voters about details of the tax overhaul.

Population shifts show Sun Belt poised to gain in Congress **Reid Wilson, The Hill**

Sun Belt states are likely to gain seats and influence in Congress after the next U.S. Census, according to yearly population growth estimates released this week. Southern and Western states growing fast enough to gain new seats in the House of Representatives will take those seats from states in the Rust Belt and the Upper Midwest, where population growth has slowed as economic opportunities have moved elsewhere.

Presidential

Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Alleging Foreign Payments to Trump Businesses Violate U.S. Constitution **Joe Palazzolo, The Wall Street Journal**

A federal judge in Manhattan threw out a lawsuit that alleged President Donald Trump violates the U.S. Constitution when his businesses receive payments from foreign and state governments. A government watchdog group and business competitors of Mr. Trump who brought the lawsuit failed to show that the president's alleged violations caused them harm or that their alleged injuries fell within "the zone of interests" the U.S. Constitution's built-in anticorruption provisions seek to protect, U.S. District Judge George Daniels wrote in a 29-page opinion.

White House: Trump will likely sign tax bill Friday **Jordan Fabian, The Hill**

President Trump will likely sign the Republican tax overhaul on Friday, according to a White House official. "There's a very good chance the president signs it tomorrow," said the official.

Second judge halts Trump rollback of ObamaCare birth control rule **Nathaniel Weixel, The Hill**

A federal judge in California has temporarily blocked the Trump administration's recent rules allowing moral and religious exceptions to ObamaCare's birth control requirement, the second time this week a court has ruled against the administration. Judge Haywood Gilliam Jr. granted the injunction Thursday in the District Court for the Northern District of California.

Pence: New US-Afghanistan strategy 'already bearing fruit'
Ken Thomas, The Associated Press

Vice President Mike Pence swooped into Afghanistan for a secret meeting with Afghan leaders and a visit with U.S. troops, pointing to progress four months after President Donald Trump announced a new strategy to end a stalemate in America's longest war. Pence's unannounced trip was the first to the war-ravaged country by either Trump or the vice president, and it came as the Trump administration is seeking to stabilize the country by strengthening Afghan forces and seeking a conclusion to the 16-year war there.

Trump Deputy Chief of Staff to Step Down
Michael C. Bender, The Wall Street Journal

Rick Dearborn, one of President Donald Trump's top aides, will step down early next year to pursue private-sector work, White House officials said, becoming the latest high-profile departure from the West Wing in recent weeks. "Rick loyally served the president for two and a half years and brought tremendous energy to the White House staff," White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said.

Key White House economic adviser to depart
Damian Paletta, The Washington Post

White House National Economic Council Deputy Director Jeremy Katz is leaving the Trump administration early next month in what could mark a churn of senior advisers. Katz, a Bush administration veteran who worked as NEC Director Gary Cohn's lieutenant, played a central role in coordinating the administration's push to overhaul the tax code.